

**FORUM:** Human Rights Commission Sub-commission 1 (HRC)

**QUESTION OF:** Ending marginalisation for the disabled

**SUBMITTED BY:** Sweden

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Paraguay, Armenia, Brazil, Sri Lanka, ECA, Zambia, Australia, Malaysia, Ireland, Human Rights Watch, Azerbaijan, Uruguay, Thailand, Estonia, Palau, North Macedonia, Panama, Mongolia, Uganda

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,

*Recognizing* that more than half a billion people are disabled as a result of mental, physical or sensory impairment and regardless of which part of the world they are in, their lives are often limited by physical, psychological and social barriers,

*Bearing in mind* that approximately eighty per cent of the people with disabilities live in developing and less economically developed countries and they should have equal rights and opportunities,

*Keeping in mind* the principles declared in the Charter of the United Nations (UN) 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,

1. Urges all Member States to recognize the overall and long-term significance of accessibility in the process of the equalization of opportunities in all spheres of society through:
  - a) introducing plans and programs with the aim of making the physical environment and spaces accessible and available to all by:
    - i. initiating measures to abolish and remove the obstacles and restricting aspects of physical areas in order to ensure the active participation of the disabled people in the physical environment
    - ii. establishing guidelines and standards for design and construction of the physical spaces and legislating necessary regulation to ensure accessibility to various areas in society such as but not limited to housing, buildings, public transport services and other means of transportation, streets and other outdoor environments and also including the established accessibility requirements in the design of the physical environment from start of the designing process
    - iii. consulting related organizations for people with disabilities
  - b) commencing measures to provide access to information and communication for the disabled by:
    - i. developing strategies to make information services and documentation accessible for different groups of people with disabilities through technologies such as but not limited to Braille, tape services, and other appropriate technologies for providing access to written information and documentation for people with visual impairments and for people with auditory impairments or comprehension difficulties
    - ii. enhancing the usage of sign language for the education of deaf children and providing their families and communities sign language interpretation services as well as encouraging people who work in social environments to learn and use sign language such as but not limited to salespersons
    - iii. encouraging the media such as but not limited to television, radio, and newspapers in terms of making their services accessible to the disabled through supporting them financially to provide such services
    - iv. making sure that digital information and service systems which are offered to the general public are either made accessible to the disabled initially, or are adapted to be made accessible and consulting the institutions of disabled people with when measures to make information services accessible are being developed;

2. Calls upon the establishment of a specialized UN agency for the disabled people called “United Nations for the Disabled” (UND) which will:
  - a) be supported and assisted by related UN entities and organs such as but not limited to:
    - i. the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through providing education for all
    - ii. the World Health Organization (WHO) by providing technical assistance in physical and mental health and prevention
    - iii. the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) by supporting childhood disability programs and providing technical assistance
    - iv. the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) called Rehabilitation International and the International Labor Organization (ILO) by improving access to the equal chance of employment and increasing economic integration through international labor standards and technical cooperation activities
  - b) work towards:
    - i. ensuring the full and equal satisfaction by people with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms
    - ii. preventing and prohibiting all forms of discrimination against people with disabilities
    - iii. ensuring the equality of opportunity for the full participation and cooperation in all spheres of life such as but not limited to education, employment, transportation, health, accommodation, and social life
  - c) carry out campaigns for the inclusion of the disabled people through initiating and supporting information campaigns concerning people with disabilities and disability policies, conveying the message that people with disabilities are citizens with the same rights and obligations as others, thus justifying measures to remove all obstacles to full participation
  - d) cooperate with all willing Member States to form an independent department/agency/public body within the jurisdiction of their related Ministries such as but not limited to Ministries of Health, Social Care, and Employment and Social Affairs in an effort to work toward an approach to a more inclusive world for the disabled which will:
    - i. work collaboratively with the respective Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) towards assisting the government bodies to take active measures such as but not limited to increasing inclusivity and improving accessibility
    - ii. take initiatives in terms of preventing discrimination, enabling effective and full participation and inclusion in society and gaining respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity in a more local approach
3. Calls for an annual international conference that will be held in different UN Headquarters each year, called the “International Conference on Human Rights for the Disabled People” (ICHRDP) which will be supervised by UN and be organized by the UND as people with disabilities have both special concerns and needs that require serious consideration of the international community that will:
  - a) bring together:
    - i. representatives from the community of the disabled people
    - ii. heads of states and policy-makers from willing Member States
    - iii. leading academic scientists, researchers, experts and analysts in the areas such as but not limited to physical and mental health, social sciences, economists and any other relevant areas
    - iv. psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists, health experts such as doctors and physical therapists
    - v. personnel from departments such as but not limited to United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and Rehabilitation International
    - vi. family, friends and relatives of the people from the disabled community

- b) work towards increasing and contributing to the well-being and rights of people with disabilities through:
  - i. organizing advisory missions with the aim of providing assistance to governments in disability prevention and the rehabilitation of disabled people
  - ii. workshops for the training of the technical personnel and the setting up of rehabilitation centers
  - iii. seminars and study groups as means of exchanging information and experience among experts in disability
  - iv. exchanging and sharing research and investigation results on all aspects of life of the disabled people
  - v. providing a premier interdisciplinary platform for such as but not limited to researchers, practitioners, policymakers, health specialists, educators and disabled people to present and discuss the most recent innovations, news, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of health, accessibility, and human rights
  - vi. publishing annual reports through submissions of research abstracts and articles regarding conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or theoretical work and progress made in all areas of accessibility and equality in order to declare the outcome and the work done throughout the ICHRDP to the public
  - vii. offering opportunities for related governmental institutions and NGOs to participate in or host seminars, workshops, launches of new initiatives and exhibitions
  - viii. training aforementioned personnel in terms of the education and rehabilitation of the disabled people
  - ix. managing the funds and economic support provided for the disabled in the most efficient way;

- 4. Suggests all willing Member States to raise awareness in society about people with disabilities as well as their rights and needs, their potential and contribution via:
  - a) ensuring that responsible authorities such as but not limited to Ministries of Health, Social Care, and Employment and Social Affairs release recent information on their available programs and services for people with disabilities, their families, professionals in the field and the general public so that they are informed of the activities, seminars, and conferences organized for them through:
    - i. inviting the previously mentioned people to participate and be involved in education programs regarding disability matters
    - ii. initiating and promoting programs aimed at raising the level of awareness of people with disabilities concerning their rights and potential in order to increase self-efficacy and empowerment of the people with disabilities so that they can take advantage of the opportunities available to them
  - b) encouraging the portrayal of people with disabilities by the mass media in a positive way and also urging the private sector to include disability issues in all aspects of their activity
  - c) making awareness-raising a significant portion of the education of children with disabilities and in rehabilitation programs and including awareness-raising as a part of the curriculum of all children
  - d) forming the lacking public view about disabled people to gain their empathy through:
    - i. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on national TV channels and federal radio broadcasting
    - ii. informative content on local newspapers and magazines that are distributed to the public frequently, print publications such as but not limited to brochures, billboards and pamphlets regarding the issue
    - iii. conferences, workshops, media and film screening events;

- 5. Further suggests all Member States to recognize the importance of equal primary, secondary, and

tertiary education for disabled children, youth and, adults in unified environments through making sure that the education of people with disabilities is a core part of the educational system by:

- a) assuring that authorities such as but not limited to the Ministry of Education are liable for the education of the disabled people in integrated settings through:
  - i. enhancing the education for people with disabilities through integrating it as a part of national educational planning, curriculum development and school organization
  - ii. engaging parent groups and organizations for people with disabilities in the education process at every step
  - iii. providing necessary materials and ongoing teacher training focusing on the needs and rights for the disabled
  - iv. enabling curriculum flexibility, addition and adaptation
- b) combining education and community-based programs as integral approaches in providing education and training for people with disabilities by establishing national community-based programs and encouraging communities to use and develop their resources to provide local education to people with disabilities
- c) providing special education to all people with disabilities in conditions where the general school system is not sufficient for the needs of all people with disabilities by:
  - i. aiming at preparing students for education in the general school system
  - ii. granting the specific communication requirements of deaf and blind people, so their education may be more appropriately provided in schools for such people or classes and units in mainstream schools so that they are not isolated from their peers;

6. Encourages Member States to be aware of the fact that people with disabilities should be encouraged to exercise their human rights, specifically in the areas of employment and their equal opportunities in both urban and rural fields for efficient and profitable employment in the labor market assuring that:

- a) laws and policies in the employment branch are not discriminatory against the disabled people and must not be limiting to their employment through:
  - i. supporting the integration of people with disabilities into employment through active support occurring through various measures, such as reserved or designated employment, vocational training, loans for small businesses, special contracts and also through encouraging employers to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate people with disabilities
  - ii. initiating measures to arrange and adapt workplaces in a way that they become accessible to people with different disabilities by collaborating with workers' organizations and organizations for the people with disabilities
- b) states are responsible for the provision of income maintenance and social security for people with disabilities through:
  - i. ensuring the adequate income support to people with disabilities who, owing to disability-related factors, have temporarily lost or received a reduction in their income or have been denied employment opportunities. States should ensure that the provision of support takes into account the costs frequently incurred by people with disabilities and their families as a result of the disability.
  - ii. making sure that social security systems should include incentives to restore the income-earning capacity of people with disabilities and those systems should provide or contribute to the organization, development and financing of vocational training;

7. Wishes to remain actively seized on the issue.