



SLOVENIA

Statement at the general debate at the 11th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

“Leaving no one behind through the full implementation of the CRPD”

New York, 12-14 June 2018

Mr Chair,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statements delivered by the EU and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate Slovenia's commitment to implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. The Slovenian Constitution explicitly mentions the right of persons with disabilities to equality before the law. The Constitutional Court established years ago that the right of persons with disabilities to special protection is a special human right, a right of a positive status. As such, the state undertook to actively manage disability policy and to take various measures within the scope of the policy to improve the situation of persons with disabilities in our society. Therefore, the right of persons with disabilities to special protection is a collection of various rights of persons with disabilities in the field of parental protection and family benefits, education, employment, health, disability insurance, social assistance, culture, sports and recreation, tax and other relief or exemptions, information and communication technology, the accessibility of the built environment and information, and all other fields which enable persons with disabilities to lead decent and equal lives.

Let us present some important steps that have recently been adopted by the Slovenian Government and will significantly enhance the protection and exercise of human rights and freedoms in the country.

In 2016, the Government passed the Protection against Discrimination Act, which determined the protection of all persons against discrimination in various fields of social, political, economic and cultural life. The Act also established the Advocate of the Principle of Equality as an independent and specialized national body to combat discrimination.

Furthermore, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act was passed to regulate equal opportunities and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities, and is one of the most important documents regulating this field in Slovenia.

In accordance with the UN Convention, Slovenia recently passed the long-awaited Personal Assistance Act. It systemically regulates the right to personal assistance and the method of its exercise in order to allow persons with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments to have equal opportunities, more independence, activity and equal participation in society. In accordance with the law, personal assistance is assistance for users in all tasks and activities which they cannot do on their own due to the type and degree of disability. It gives them the possibility at home or outside their home for them to live independently and actively, and to be equally included in society.

Mr Chair,

Let me conclude by saying that Slovenia will continue with activities to achieve even greater social integration of persons with disabilities and better regulation of issues relating to disability. For this, even closer cooperation is needed between individual line ministries, governmental institutions, disabled people's organisations, and other organisations addressing issues relating to disability.

Thank you.