

# The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>1</sup>

(Original version with associated simplified version)

## Article 1 - Purpose of the Convention

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.

The goal of this Convention is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights as everybody else and that they are respected by others.

## Article 2 – Definitions

For the purposes of the present Convention:

**"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 non spoken languages;

**"Discrimination on the basis of 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;

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities : resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, 24 January 2007*

Adapted from UN Enable. International agreement on the rights of disabled people. Easy read version.

**"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, programmes 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 with disabilities where this is needed.

**"Communication"** means all the ways used by people with disabilities to talk and understand information, for example computers, easy read or Braille.

**"Discrimination"** means being treated unfairly because you have a disability. It includes not getting reasonable accommodation.

**"Language"** means any way people talk to each other including sign language.

**"Reasonable accommodation"** means modifications of the environment which allow people with disabilities to enjoy their rights (for example this includes making adjustments and accommodations in educational, employment, and other contexts to make sure that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as others).

**"Universal design"** means products and items made for and usable by everybody, including people with disabilities.

### **Article 3 - General Principles**

The principles of the present Convention shall be:

- a. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- b. Non-discrimination;
- c. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- d. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- e. Equality of opportunity;
- f. Accessibility;
- g. Equality between men and women;

- h. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

The basic ideas of the convention are:

- a. People must be respected for who they are and are free to make their own choices;
- b. No one should be discriminated against (i.e. treated unfairly);
- c. People with disabilities have the right to be part of, and participate in, the life of the community and society;
- d. Everybody, including people with disabilities, is different and this is a good thing. People with disabilities must be respected and accepted like everybody else;
- e. Everyone should have the same chances in life;
- f. People with disabilities should have access to all the services and activities that others enjoy;
- g. Men and women are equal;
- h. The capacities of children with disabilities to make decisions and to do things for themselves will develop as they grow up and this needs to be respected.

## **Article 4 - General Obligations**

1. 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 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 this 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.

### What do countries need to do?

1. All countries should make sure the rights of people with disabilities are respected and that they are treated equally. They do this by:
  - a. Making or changing laws and rules;
  - b. Changing law, rules or behaviours that cause people with disabilities to be treated unfairly;
  - c. Taking into account the human rights of people with disabilities anytime they put in place a policy or programme;
  - d. Not doing things that are against the Convention and making sure that the government and authorities respect this Convention;
  - e. Taking steps to make sure that people, organisations or companies treat people with disabilities equally and fairly.
  - f. Developing items and services that everybody can use;
  - g. Developing and using technology to help people with disabilities and making sure that they can access this technology without spending a lot of money;
  - h. Giving accessible information to people about things or services that can be useful and helpful;
  - i. Training people so they can respect the rights protected by this Convention.
2. All countries should do as much as they can afford to make sure people with disabilities are not discriminated against.
3. All countries should involve people with disabilities in making new laws and policies.

4. When countries have rules or laws which are even better than the Convention, they should not change them.
5. The Convention applies everywhere in countries.

## **Article 5 - Equality and non-discrimination**

1. States Parties recognize that all persons are equal before and under the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law.
2. States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.
3. In order to promote equality and eliminate discrimination, States Parties shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided.
4. Specific measures which are necessary to accelerate or achieve de facto equality of persons with disabilities shall not be considered discrimination under the terms of the present Convention.

1. Countries agree that everyone is equal.
2. Discrimination against people with disabilities is not allowed and the law protects people against discrimination.
3. Countries should make sure that people get the reasonable accommodation they need (i.e. that modifications and adjustments are made within society so that people can access information, services, activities and opportunities like everybody else).
4. When countries make specific laws or rules to make sure that people with disabilities are equal in practice, this is not discrimination.

## **Article 6 - Women with disabilities**

1. States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.

1. Women and girls with disabilities are often treated even more unfairly. They should also enjoy all their human rights.
2. Countries should make sure that women and girls have enough chances in life and power and control over their lives to enjoy all the rights of the Convention.

## **Article 7 - Children with disabilities**

1. 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.
3. 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.
  1. Children with disabilities should enjoy their human rights, like other children.
  2. When things are done for children, what is best for them is the most important thing to think about.
  3. Countries should make sure that children with disabilities have the right to give their opinion. Their point of view should be respected more and more as they grow up and mature. When necessary, help needs to be given to children to express their opinion.

## **Article 8 - Awareness raising**

1. 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;
- d. Promoting awareness-training programmes regarding persons with disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities.

### 1. Countries should immediately:

- a. Help everybody realise that people with disabilities have equal rights;
- b. Combat false ideas about people with disabilities and practices which hurt them;
- c. Show that persons with disabilities can and do contribute to society.

### 2. They should do this by:

- a. Campaigning to make people think positively about disability.
- b. Teaching children and adult the importance of respecting the rights of people with disabilities.
- c. Encouraging the media to talk positively and in a respectful way about people with disabilities.
- d. Supporting other awareness-raising programmes.

## **Article 9 - Accessibility**

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open



or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

- a. Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
- b. Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures to:

- a. Develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- b. Ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- c. Provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
- d. Provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;
- e. Provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;
- f. Promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;
- g. Promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;
- h. Promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.
1. To make it possible for people with disabilities to be with others in society and to do the same activities as others, countries should give them access to transport, information, buildings, services and any other service or item to allow this. Countries should also remove all the obstacles that make it difficult for people to be with others in society.

2. They should do this by:
  - a. Making rules to make public buildings and services accessible to people with disabilities;
  - b. Making sure that building and services offered by private companies (or other private organisations) are accessible to people with disabilities;
  - c. Training people on accessibility;
  - d. Writing signs in public buildings in Braille and in simple language or form so that everybody can understand;
  - e. Making persons available to guide people with disabilities in public building, for example guides, readers and people who can translate sign language;
  - f. Promoting other forms of assistance;
  - g. Making sure that people with disabilities have access to new technology like internet;
  - h. Supporting the creation of technology and tools which are already accessible to everybody so that people can buy them at a low price.

## **Article 10 - Right to life**

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.

Everybody has the right to life. Countries must make sure that people with disabilities enjoy this right like everybody else.

## **Article 11 – Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**

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.

Countries must make sure that people with disabilities are properly protected during dangerous situations like wars and natural disasters (for example, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, etc.).

## **Article 12 - Equal recognition before the law**

1. States Parties reaffirm that persons with disabilities have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law.
2. States Parties shall recognize that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.
3. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity.
4. States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse in accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will and preferences of the person, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to the person's circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect the person's rights and interests.
5. Subject to the provisions of this article, States Parties shall take all appropriate and effective measures to ensure the equal right of persons with disabilities to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, and shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not arbitrarily deprived of their property.
  1. The law must recognize that people with disabilities are human beings with rights and responsibilities like anyone else.
  2. People with disabilities have the same rights as everybody else and must be able use them. People with disabilities must be able to act under the law which means they can engage in transactions and create, modify or end legal relationships. They can make their own decisions and others must respect their decisions.
  3. When it is hard for people with disabilities to make decisions on their own, they have the right to receive support to help them make decisions.

4. When people receive support to make decisions, they must be protected against possible abuse. Also:
  - the support that the person receives should respect the rights of the person and what the person wants;
  - It should not be in the interest of or benefit others;
  - The persons providing support should not try to influence the person to make a decision they do not want to make;
  - There should be the right amount of support for what the person needs;
  - The support should be for as short a time as possible;
  - It should be checked regularly by an authority which can be trusted.
5. Countries must protect the rights of people with disabilities:
  - To have or be given property;
  - To control their money;
  - To borrow money; and
  - Not to have their homes or money taken away from them.

### **Article 13 - Access to Justice**

1. States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages.

2. In order to help to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, States Parties shall promote appropriate training for those working in the field of administration of justice, including police and prison staff.

1. People with disabilities have the same rights to go to court, take other people to court or take part in what happens in courts as anyone else. People with disabilities should have support to make sure they can access justice.
2. Countries should train people working in courts and tribunals and also police and prison staff so they can help people with disabilities to access justice.

## Article 14 - Liberty and security of person

1. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others:

- a. Enjoy the right to liberty and security of person;
- b. Are not deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and that any deprivation of liberty is in conformity with the law, and that the existence of a disability shall in no case justify a deprivation of liberty.

2. States Parties shall ensure that if persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty through any process, they are, on an equal basis with others, entitled to guarantees in accordance with international human rights law and shall be treated in compliance with the objectives and principles of this Convention, including by provision of reasonable accommodation.

1. People with disabilities have the right:

- a. To be free like other people. The law must protect their freedom.
- b. Not to be detained or imprisoned because they have a disability.

2. If people with disabilities are imprisoned, they must be protected by international human rights law and treated in a way that respects the objectives and principles of this Convention.

## Article 15 - Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

1. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his or her free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

2. States Parties shall take all effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, from being subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

1. People with disabilities must not be tortured or treated cruelly. They cannot be experimented on by doctors or scientists unless they freely agree.
2. Countries should do everything possible to make sure that people with disabilities are not tortured or treated cruelly.

## Article 16 - Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.
2. States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.
3. 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 effectively monitored by independent authorities.
4. 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.
5. 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.

1. Countries must make laws and rules to make sure that people with disabilities are protected within and outside their home from violence, and from being exploited or abused.
2. Countries must prevent abuse by giving support, information and training to persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers. Everybody should learn how to avoid, recognize and report violence and abuse. There should be extra support for women and children.

3. Countries must make sure that services that support people with disabilities are properly checked by an independent body.
4. Countries must make sure that people with disabilities who have been abused get the help and support they need to keep them safe and help them recover from the abuse.
5. Countries should make sure they create good laws and policies (including ones that focus on women and children) to effectively find out if abuses are occurring, to investigate these and take abusers to court.

### **Article 17 - Protecting the integrity of the person**

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

People with disability should have their body and mind respected. Nobody should hurt their body and mind.

### **Article 18 - Liberty of movement and nationality**

1. States Parties shall recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring that persons with disabilities:

- a. Have the right to acquire and change a nationality and are not deprived of their nationality arbitrarily or on the basis of disability;
- b. Are not deprived, on the basis of disability, of their ability to obtain, possess and utilize documentation of their nationality or other documentation of identification, or to utilize relevant processes such as immigration proceedings, that may be needed to facilitate exercise of the right to liberty of movement;
- c. Are free to leave any country, including their own;
- d. Are not deprived, arbitrarily or on the basis of disability, of the right to enter their own country.

2. Children with disabilities shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by their parents.

1. People with disabilities have the right to move around, to choose where to live and to have a country. Countries should make sure that:

- a. People with disabilities have a right to a nationality and they can decide to change their nationality if they want. They must not be refused to have a nationality for unjust reasons or because they have a disability;
  - b. People with disabilities have the right to have identity papers, like passports, and to use them. They must have access to procedures for immigration;
  - c. They must be able to leave any country including their own;
  - d. They must not be unjustly stopped from coming back to their own country.
2. Children with disabilities have the right to be registered at birth and to have a name, to have a nationality, and if possible, to know their parents and be cared for by them.

## **Article 19 - Living independently and being included in the community**

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 and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;
- c. Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.

People with disabilities have the right to live like other people and to have the same choices in life. Countries should make sure that people with disabilities:

- a. Can choose where to live and with who. They should not be forced to live somewhere if they do not want to;



- b. Have access to a lot of different community services so they can live with others in the community. They should not live in places that isolate them or keeps them away from their community;
- c. Have access to the same community services as all other people.

## **Article 20 - Personal mobility**

States Parties shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, including by:

- a. Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the manner and at the time of their choice, and at affordable cost;
- b. Facilitating access by persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including by making them available at affordable cost;
- c. Providing training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to specialist staff working with persons with disabilities;
- d. Encouraging entities that produce mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to take into account all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities.

Countries should make sure that people with disabilities can get about as much as possible. They do this by:

- a. Helping people to get about when and how they want and for a low price;
- b. Helping people get good and cheap aids, tools and support for their mobility;
- c. Training people on mobility skills (e.g. how to get from place to place with ease, speed, safely and efficiently);
- d. Encourage companies which make mobility aids to think about all different needs of people with disabilities.

## **Article 21 - Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with

others and through all forms of communication of their choice, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, including by:

- a. Providing information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost;
- b. Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions;
- c. Urging private entities that provide services to the general public, including through the Internet, to provide information and services in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities;
- d. Encouraging the mass media, including providers of information through the Internet, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities;
- e. Recognizing and promoting the use of sign languages.

People with disabilities have the right to say and think what they want. They also have the right to receive and give information. To do this they can use different forms of communication. Countries must respect this right by:

- a. Making sure that information is given in a way that people with disabilities can understand;
- b. Making sure that people can communicate with officials for example, in sign languages, Braille and other ways;
- c. Telling people working in the private sector to make their information accessible to people with disabilities;
- d. Encouraging the media, including the Internet, to make their service accessible to persons with disabilities;
- e. Recognizing and encouraging the use of sign languages.

## **Article 22 - Respect for privacy**

1. No person with disabilities, regardless of place of residence or living arrangements, shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence or other types of communication or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. Persons with disabilities have the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

2. States Parties shall protect the privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

1. People with disabilities have the right to have a private life, a family and a home. They also have the right to private correspondence like phone calls, letter or email. Nobody should attack their honour and reputation. This should be respected no matter where they live. The law should protect this right.
2. Countries should make sure that personal information about people with disabilities is kept confidential as is done for other people.

## **Article 23 - Respect for home and the family**

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, so as to ensure that:

- a. The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses is recognized;
- b. The rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to age-appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education are recognized, and the means necessary to enable them to exercise these rights are provided;
- c. Persons with disabilities, including children, retain their fertility on an equal basis with others.

2. States Parties shall ensure the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities, with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship, adoption of children or similar institutions, where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the best interests of the child shall be paramount. States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.

3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. With a view to realizing these rights, and to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.

4. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. In no case shall a child be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents.

5. States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care within the wider family, and failing that, within the community in a family setting.

1. People with disabilities have the right to marry, have a family, be parents and have relationships on an equal basis with others.

a. People with disabilities have equal rights to get married and start a family as long as both members of the couple want to.

b. People with disabilities have a right to decide how many and when to have children. They should receive information about having children.

c. People with disabilities should not be prevented from having children, for example by sterilization.

2. People with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as other concerning adoption. Countries must support people with disabilities to bring up their children if they need support.

3. Countries should protect children with disabilities from being concealed, abandoned, neglected or kept apart from society, by giving support and information to their families.

4. Countries should make sure children are not taken away from their parents because they have, or their parents have a disability. When a child is taken away from its parents, the law must make sure this fair and for the good of the child.

5. When parents cannot take care of a child with a disability, the child should stay with other family members. When this is not possible, the child should live within the community in a family setting.

## **Article 24 - Education**

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal

opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and life long learning directed to:

- a. The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity;
- b. The development by persons with disabilities of their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential;
- c. Enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in a free society.

2. In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that:

- a. Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from free and compulsory primary education, or from secondary education, on the basis of disability;
- 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.

3. 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

modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.

4. In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.

5. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities.

1. People with disabilities have the right to education like others. Countries should make sure the education system accept them and that they can learn all their lives so that:
  - a. They can develop their skills and abilities and be accepted and valued in the world;
  - b. They can develop their personality, creativity, talent and other abilities;
  - c. They can do activities with and for others.
2. Countries should make sure that:
  - a. They are not excluded from (kept out of) mainstream education. Children with disabilities must be allowed to go to mainstream primary and secondary schools;
  - b. They must be able to go to inclusive, good and free schools close to home, like other people;
  - c. Schools and universities must make changes to their environment so that children and adults with disabilities can access them;
  - d. People with disabilities must get the support they need to learn;
  - e. The support must be adapted to each person.
3. Countries need to make sure that people with disabilities are able to learn life and social development skills to make sure they can live and participate in society and the life of their community on the same basis as all other people.

In order to achieve this, countries must encourage people to learn all the different ways that people with disabilities can use to communicate.

4. Countries must employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille. They must also train people who work in the area of education to learn skills and techniques which will help them to support people with disabilities in getting their education.
5. Countries must make sure that people with disabilities can have access to educational opportunities after they have completed primary and secondary school, including training that is needed in order to get jobs, to help them to improve their lives and to strengthen their knowledge and skills.

## Article 25 - Health

States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation. In particular, States Parties shall:

- a. Provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes;
- b. Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further 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. Require health professionals to provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent by, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and needs of persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care;
- e. Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance where such insurance is permitted by national law, which shall be provided in a fair and reasonable manner;

- f. Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of disability.

People with disabilities should have the same chance as others to be in good health. Countries should make sure that people with disabilities access health services. In particular, they must:

- a. Give people with disabilities access, on an equal basis with everybody else, to all types of health services which are of good quality and not expensive;
- b. Make sure people with disabilities get the types of health services they need because of their disability;
- c. Make sure services are close to people's homes even if they live in the countryside;
- d. Make sure health professionals give the same quality of service to people with disabilities as to others. Health professionals must give enough information to people and must get the consent of people with disabilities before they treat. Countries should train doctors, nurses and others to make sure that they treat people with disability with respect;
- e. Make sure people with disabilities are not discriminated against in health and life insurance and that they have access to these insurances on an equal basis with other people;
- f. Make sure people are not refused care, treatment or food and fluids.

## **Article 26 - Habilitation and rehabilitation**

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures, including through peer support, to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life. To that end, States Parties shall organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, in such a way that these services and programmes:

- a. Begin at the earliest possible stage, and are based on the multidisciplinary assessment of individual needs and strengths;
- b. Support participation and inclusion in the community and all aspects of society, are voluntary, and are available to persons with disabilities as close as possible to their own communities, including in rural areas.



2. States Parties shall promote the development of initial and continuing training for professionals and staff working in habilitation and rehabilitation services.
3. States Parties shall promote the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation.
  1. Countries should make sure people with disabilities can lead an independent and good life. They must provide them with habilitation and rehabilitation in the areas of health, work, education and social services in order to make this happen.
    - a. Countries must make sure that they look at people with disabilities' needs and strengths at an early stage so that people with disabilities can get the supports and services they need.
    - b. These services must help people with disabilities to be included in society, to live with others and do the same activities as others. These services must be voluntary, and must be close to where people live even if they live in the countryside.
  2. Countries need to train habilitation and rehabilitation professionals to provide these services for people with disabilities.
  3. Countries need to make sure people with disabilities get different aids and equipment to live in the community.

## **Article 27 - Work and employment**

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia:
  - a. Prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions;
  - b. Protect the rights of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to just and favourable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and

equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances;

- c. Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour and trade union rights on an equal basis with others;
- d. Enable persons with disabilities to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and vocational and continuing training;
- e. Promote employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment;
- f. Promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business;
- g. Employ persons with disabilities in the public sector;
- h. Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures, which may include affirmative action programmes, incentives and other measures;
- i. Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace;
- j. Promote the acquisition by persons with disabilities of work experience in the open labour market;
- k. 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.

1. People with disabilities have a right to work, like other people. They have the right to earn money and choose their job. Countries must make sure that the right to work of people with disabilities is respected. This includes:
  - a. Not allowing discrimination (i.e. making sure people with disabilities have equal job rights, rules, pay and opportunities);

- b. Making sure people with disabilities have good and safe working conditions, that they have equal chances at getting jobs and equal pay and that they are not abused at work;
  - c. Making sure people with disabilities have a right to join a trade union like others;
  - d. Making sure people with disabilities can go on work programmes and work training;
  - e. Helping people with disabilities to find and keep jobs as well as get better jobs;
  - f. Helping people with disabilities set up their own businesses;
  - g. Giving people with disabilities jobs in the public sector (public sector jobs for example, include government jobs in public schools and universities, in the police force, in public health services etc.);
  - h. Helping companies to give jobs to people with disabilities;
  - i. Making sure people with disabilities get reasonable accommodation in the workplace;
  - j. Helping people with disabilities to get work experience by spending a short period in a workplace to learn what it is like to do that kind of work;
  - k. Helping people with disabilities get a job, get back to work and retain their work through different programmes, supports and services.
2. Countries must make sure that people with disabilities are not forced to do unpaid work.

## **Article 28 - Adequate standard of living and social protection**

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.
2. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures:

- a. To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs;
  - b. To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes;
  - c. To ensure access by persons with disabilities and their families living in situations of poverty to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses, including adequate training, counselling, financial assistance and respite care;
  - d. To ensure access by persons with disabilities to public housing programmes;
  - e. To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to retirement benefits and programmes.
1. People with disabilities have an equal right to satisfactory and acceptable standard of living/living conditions for them and their families. This includes food, clothing, housing and clean water.
  2. People with disabilities have the right to be protected by the state from poverty and bad living conditions. Countries should:
    - a. Give people with disabilities access to clean water and services and aids for their disability, at a price they can afford.
    - b. Make sure people with disabilities especially girls and women and older people, get help to have better living conditions.
    - c. Make sure people with disabilities who are poor get help from the state to buy the things they need because of their disability.
    - d. Make sure people with disabilities have access to public housing programmes.
    - e. Make sure people with disabilities get retirement pensions as other people.

## **Article 29 - Participation in political and public life**

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake to:

- a. Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely

chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:

- i. Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;
  - ii. Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;
  - iii. Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;
- b. Promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:
- i. Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;
  - ii. Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.

Countries must make sure that people with disabilities are able to take part in politics on the same basis as everybody else. In order to ensure this, countries must:

- a. Take action to make sure that people with disabilities are able to participate in political life, including to vote and to be elected.

This includes:

- i. Making sure voting is easy and understandable to people with disabilities.
- ii. Making sure voting is secret and free. They must also make sure that people with disabilities can stand for election and become public officials.
- iii. Allowing people with disabilities to choose someone to help them with voting if they want to.

- b. Encourage the participation of people with disabilities in public affairs. This means that:
- i. People with disabilities have the right to join Non-governmental organizations and associations.
  - ii. They have the right to create and join organizations of persons with disabilities.

## **Article 30 - Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports**

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities:

- a. Enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats;
- b. Enjoy access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats;
- c. Enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, enjoy access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance.

2. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate steps, in accordance with international law, to ensure that laws protecting intellectual property rights do not constitute an unreasonable or discriminatory barrier to access by persons with disabilities to cultural materials.

4. 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.

5. 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 school system;
  - e. To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.
1. People with disabilities have the right to take part in cultural life like other people. This means that:
    - a. Cultural materials, like books, are accessible.
    - b. Television, films and theatres and other activities are made available in formats that are accessible to people with disabilities.
    - c. People with disabilities can access places like theaters, museums, cinemas, libraries and touristic sites.
  2. People with disabilities should be supported to express their creative, artistic and intellectual skills.
  3. Countries should make sure that the rights of authors on their work do not prevent people with disabilities to access material.
  4. The language and culture of people with disabilities should be respected; this includes sign language and deaf cultures.
  5. People with disabilities have the right to have fun and take part in sports and leisure activities. Countries must:
    - a. Encourage people with disabilities to access mainstream sporting activities;
    - b. Make sure people with disabilities can create and participate in sporting and recreational activities specific to their disabilities;
    - c. Make sure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourist places and events;

- d. Make sure children with disabilities have equal access to all these activities including at school;
- e. Make sure that people working in the areas of recreation, tourism, leisure and sport can help people with disabilities.

## **Article 31 - Statistics and data collection**

1. 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.

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

## **Article 32 - International cooperation**

1. States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia:

(a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

(b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;



(c) Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;

(d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies.

2. The provisions of this article are without prejudice to the obligations of each State Party to fulfil its obligations under the present Convention.

### **Article 33 - National implementation and monitoring**

1. States Parties, in accordance with their system of organization, shall designate one or more focal points within government for matters relating to the implementation of the present Convention, and shall give due consideration to the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism within government to facilitate related action in different sectors and at different levels.

2. States Parties shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State Party, a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the present Convention. When designating or establishing such a mechanism, States Parties shall take into account the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights.

3. Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.

### **Article 34 - Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

1. There shall be established a Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereafter referred to as "the Committee"), which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.

2. The Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Convention, of twelve experts. After an additional sixty ratifications or accessions to the Convention, the membership of the Committee shall increase by six members, attaining a maximum number of eighteen members.

3. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the present Convention. When nominating their candidates, States

Parties are invited to give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4.3 of the present Convention.

4. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of experts with disabilities.

5. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties from among their nationals at meetings of the Conference of States Parties. At those meetings, for which two thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

6. The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the present Convention. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit the nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the State Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.

7. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election once. However, the term of six of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these six members shall be chosen by lot by the chairperson of the meeting referred to in paragraph 5 of this article.

8. The election of the six additional members of the Committee shall be held on the occasion of regular elections, in accordance with the relevant provisions of this article.

9. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause she or he can no longer perform her or his duties, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert possessing the qualifications and meeting the requirements set out in the relevant provisions of this article, to serve for the remainder of the term.

10. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention, and shall convene its initial meeting.

12. With the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.

13. The members of the Committee shall be entitled to the facilities, privileges and immunities of experts on mission for the United Nations as laid down in the relevant sections of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

### **Article 35 - Reports by States Parties**

1. Each State Party shall submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention and on the progress made in that regard, within two years after the entry into force of the present Convention for the State Party concerned.

2. Thereafter, States Parties shall submit subsequent reports at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

3. The Committee shall decide any guidelines applicable to the content of the reports.

4. A State Party which has submitted a comprehensive initial report to the Committee need not, in its subsequent reports, repeat information previously provided. When preparing reports to the Committee, States Parties are invited to consider doing so in an open and transparent process and to give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4.3 of the present Convention.

5. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present Convention.

### **Article 36 - Consideration of reports**

1. 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 1 of this article will apply.
3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall make available the reports to all States Parties.
4. 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.
5. 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.

### **Article 37 - Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee**

1. 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.

### **Article 38 - Relationship of the Committee with other bodies**

In order to foster the effective implementation of the present Convention and to encourage international cooperation in the field covered by the present Convention:

- (a) The specialized agencies and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in

areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee may invite specialized agencies and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

(b) The Committee, as it discharges its mandate, shall consult, as appropriate, other relevant bodies instituted by international human rights treaties, with a view to ensuring the consistency of their respective reporting guidelines, suggestions and general recommendations, and avoiding duplication and overlap in the performance of their functions.

### **Article 39 - Report of the Committee**

The Committee shall report every two years to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on its activities, and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

### **Article 40 - Conference of States Parties**

1. The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention.
2. No later than six months after the entry into force of the present Convention, the Conference of the States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations biennially or upon the decision of the Conference of States Parties.

### **Article 41 - Depositary**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Convention.

### **Article 42 - Signature**

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States and by regional integration organizations at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 30 March 2007.

### **Article 43 - Consent to be bound**

The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States and to formal confirmation by signatory regional integration organizations. It shall be open for accession by any State or regional integration organization which has not signed the Convention.

## **Article 44 - Regional integration organizations**

1. "Regional integration organization" shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention. Such organizations shall declare, in their instruments of formal confirmation or accession, the extent of their competence with respect to matters governed by this Convention.

Subsequently, they shall inform the depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.

2. References to "States Parties" in the present Convention shall apply to such organizations within the limits of their competence.

3. For the purposes of article 45, paragraph 1, and article 47, paragraphs 2 and 3, any instrument deposited by a regional integration organization shall not be counted.

4. Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the Conference of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to this Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

## **Article 45 - Entry into force**

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confirming or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the twentieth such instrument, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own such instrument.

## **Article 46 - Reservations**

1. Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.

2. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

## **Article 47 - Amendments**

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment to the present Convention and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States Parties, with a request to be notified whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States Parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for approval and thereafter to all States Parties for acceptance.

2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State Party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States Parties which have accepted it.

3. If so decided by the Conference of States Parties by consensus, an amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article which relates exclusively to articles 34, 38, 39 and 40 shall enter into force for all States Parties on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment.

## **Article 48 - Denunciation**

A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

## **Article 49 - Accessible format**

The text of the present Convention shall be made available in accessible formats.

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## **Article 50 - Authentic texts**

The Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the present Convention shall be equally authentic.

In witness thereof the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.