

Guidance Note on the General Debate

The Bureau of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in accordance with Rule 13 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure (CRPD/CSP/2008/3), has agreed on the following:

1. During the 18th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, under the agenda item 5 (a), a General Debate shall be planned, starting immediately after the opening ceremony of the first meeting on 10 June 2025.
2. States Parties and Observer States wishing to be inscribed on the list of speakers are requested to inscribe through the e-Speakers module of the e-Delegate portal between **19 May (Monday) and 2 June (Monday) 2025**. Further details on relevant practical arrangements will be announced in due course through the UN Journal and regional group representatives of the bureau.
3. Group of States may designate a member to inscribe and deliver a joint statement on behalf of the Group.
4. Intergovernmental organizations, United Nations system entities, National Human Rights Institutions, and Non-Governmental Organizations accredited to the Conference, shall inscribe to the list, within the same timeframe from 19 May through 2 June 2025, by submitting a registration form at a devoted UN ENABLE website that is maintained by Secretariat.
5. The list of speakers will be produced on first-come, first-served basis, taking into account the protocol of the United Nations.
6. Considering the time constraint, the speaking time for each national statement will be limited to **three** minutes, and **five** minutes for a joint statement on behalf of a Group of States. This time-limit rule will be enforced effectively by cutting off the microphone. Reasonable accommodation will be granted on case-by-case basis as exceptions by giving one extra minute only to those speakers with disabilities who notify secretariat of their specific needs well in advance no later than **20 May 2025** (via emailing directly to the secretariat enable@un.org).
7. Duly inscribed speakers may deliver statements via a pre-recorded video message (3-minutes), and when this option is chosen, delegation of the speaker is requested to follow the applicable UN technical guidance to produce and submit the video

message and a copy of the speaking script written in one of the six official UN languages, by **30 May 2025**.

8. Delegations are also invited to forward to the designated email address estatements@un.org **3 hours** prior to the opening of the Conference, with a copy of their full statement of the general debate for posting on the UN Journal portal; and to help ensuring accessibility, delegations are requested to forward their statement in **both PDF and Microsoft Word** formats. All submissions received under the agenda item 5(a) general debate will be acknowledged in the official report of the Conference to be issued after the conclusion of the session.