

AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

16th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Statement by the Republic of Austria

**H.E. Ambassador Alexander Marschik
Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN**

**New York,
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Mr. President,

Austria aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union, the Group of Friends of Persons with disabilities, and a Joint Statement of a Group of Countries delivered by Iceland.

The implementation of the CRPD has always been of great importance to Austria. Already from 2012, Austria had an action plan for persons with disabilities which ran until 2021. Continuing this important work, last July the Federal Government adopted a follow-up National Action Plan on Disability for the period 2022 to 2030. These action plans are Austria's long-term disability policy strategy for the implementation of the CRPD. In this regard, we very much welcome this year's overarching theme of the COSP [Conference of States Parties] to point out the importance of exactly such national strategies.

Austria has made special effort to harmonise the national Action Plan with the CRPD and follow an inclusive approach. During the drafting process, we paid much attention to the participation of civil society, in particular by involving DPOs [Disabled People's Organisations] from the very beginning until the completion of the editorial work.

Austria's National Action Plan on Disability has a holistic approach and contains 8 chapters and 55 sub-chapters covering all areas of life and policy. 288 objectives and almost 150 indicators have been defined. Finally, the Action Plan contains 375 concrete measures that are to be implemented by 2030 based on the principle of disability mainstreaming. In addition, we will scientifically evaluate the recent Action Plan and its progress on an ongoing basis.

Mr. President,

The implementation of some measures have already started. Let me particularly highlight here the pilot project on personal assistance. Austria is in the process of implementing a nationwide general framework regarding the rules and procedures for providing personal assistance to people with disabilities in all areas of life. Even though personal assistance outside of the workplace is regulated by the regions (Länder) due to the federal structure in Austria, Austria's goal is to harmonise the different existing systems into one general framework. To achieve this goal, financial incentives are given to those regions, which apply the harmonised rules to their system of providing personal assistance.

The harmonisation efforts include the areas of definition of personal assistance, criteria and procedures for assessing the need for personal assistance, service features, performance of personal assistance, and evaluation and quality control. Our government will provide up to 100 million euros to implement the nationwide general framework.

Mr. President,

Let us not forget the dire situation in Ukraine. Many people had to leave their country, including persons with disabilities. We need to support these people in the best possible way and enable their participation and inclusion in our societies from the very beginning.

Austria continues to work ambitiously on the implementation of the CRPD. This August, an Austrian delegation of government experts will report on the progress made to the CRPD Committee in Geneva during the second state review. The National Action Plan on Disability

is a crucial instrument for our further work, which is supported by all federal ministries and all regions. We look forward to sharing and discussing our achievements and challenges of harmonizing national policies and strategies with the CRPD States Parties.

Thank you