

AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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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 Group of Friends of Persons with disabilities.

Austria continues to work intensively and with high priority on implementing the CRPD. In August 2023, an Austrian delegation of government experts reported on the progress made and the implementation strategies to the CRPD Committee in Geneva during the second state review. The recommendations made by the Committee in its Concluding Observations are of the utmost importance for Austria and will have a lasting impact on Austrian disability policy in the future.

The implementation of the second National Action Plan on Disability is in full swing. The current Austrian strategy for implementing the CRPD was adopted by the federal government in 2022 and covers almost all areas of life and policy. All federal ministries and regions are involved in the implementation of the 375 concrete measures until 2030 based on the principle of disability mainstreaming. Many of the recommendations made by the CRPD Committee in 2023 also coincide with these measures, which gives them additional priority.

The current National Action Plan on Disability shall be accompanied by a comprehensive scientific evaluation. A research team will begin its work in the coming year to improve and further develop its implementation processes in a targeted manner. A key component of the evaluation is to propose new, additional measures with a particular focus on the recommendations of the CRPD Committee. The aim is to drive forward their implementation even more intensively and to respond promptly to current national and international developments.

A particularly important measure is the ongoing pilot project on personal assistance, which aims to create a harmonized, nationwide framework regarding the rules and procedures for providing personal assistance for people with disabilities in all areas of life. The target group receiving personal assistance in line with this project is to be expanded in the future to include people with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities (as well). Standardized criteria are currently defined. Same as last year, our government will provide up to 100 million euros for the implementation of this national framework in 2024.

Mr. President,

I would finally like to highlight a very special project in the implementation of the current National Action on Disability in the area of culture and history: In cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the House of Austrian History currently develops a so-called "Disability History Project". Through the collection and exhibition of (certain) historical objects in combination with interviews, the experiences of people with disabilities are made visible, accessible, and are permanently secured. This critical look into the past will help raise awareness and shape the future in a forward-looking and sustainably inclusive way.

Thank you.