



Guidance Note on the General Debate

The Bureau-elect 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 16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there will be a General Debate, under the agenda item 5 (i), immediately following the opening at the first meeting on 13 June 2023.
2. All States Parties and Observer States that wish to be inscribed on the list of speakers are requested to inscribe through the e-Speakers module of the e-Delegate portal **between 22 May (Monday) and 5 June (Monday)**. Further information will be announced in due course through the UN Journal and regional group representatives in the bureau.
3. Intergovernmental organizations, NGOs that have observer status with the Conference of States Parties, as well as the United Nations system including funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, shall submit their inscription in writing to the Secretariat, via filling and lodging their registration, via a devoted COSP16 online platform at the UN ENABLE website maintained by the Secretariat, within the above same time framework.
4. A group of States may deliver a joint statement on behalf of the group.
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 constraints, a statement will be limited to **three** minutes (five minutes for that of a group of States) for each speaker duly inscribed to the list

and the time-limit policy will be enforced effectively (i.e. cutting off the microphone). Individual reasonable accommodation will be granted for persons with disabilities, and in this regard, needs are asked to be communicated directly to the secretariat via emailing to enable@un.org by 1 May 2023.

7. Duly inscribed speakers may deliver their statements via provision of a pre-recorded video message, and if this option is chosen, the relevant delegation is requested to provide, along with the recorded video message, a copy of the speaking script in one of the six official UN languages, no later than 30 May in advance of the opening of the session.

8. Delegations may submit their full statements in writing for posting on the UN Journal portal. To ensure accessibility, delegations are requested to forward their statements, in both PDF and accessible Microsoft Word formats, via email to: estatements@un.org, **3 hours** prior to the Conference. Submissions will be acknowledged in the official report of the Conference after the conclusion of the session.

9. Within the current UN meeting venue capacity, a total of 6 seats in the General Assembly Hall or 2 seats in the Conference Room 4 will be allocated for each delegation to participate in respective meetings during the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties.