

**16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the  
Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
13 – 15 June 2023, UN, New York**

**General debate - "*Harmonizing national policies and strategies with the  
CRPD: achievements and challenges*"**

**Statement of Croatia**

**Marija Pletikosa, State secretary, Ministry of labour, pension system, family  
and social policy of the Republic of Croatia**

- Honourable Secretary General, Mr President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,
- I am happy to be here on behalf of the Republic of Croatia.
- Croatia ratified the Convention in 2008, and in that way took a great obligation and responsibility.
- In order to coordinate the implementation of the Convention a special **Government Commission** has been formed.
- It is an expert body that provides advice and opinions in the field of protection and well-being of persons with disabilities and their families.
- In addition, the **Office of the Ombudsman for persons with disabilities** was established, with the aim of improving legal protection of persons with disabilities.
- We have also adapted and expanded our legal framework, and a number of strategic documents were put in place.
- In 2021 the **National plan for Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities for the period from 2021 to 2027** was adopted.
- It includes a set of public policy priorities aimed at improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

- Their status in Croatia continues to improve.
- A comprehensive **reform of the social welfare system** was carried out last year.
- It was designed to provide a more independent living and inclusion in the community for persons with disabilities and prevent them from being placed in an institution.
- For this purpose, the amount of personal disability allowance has been increased.
- The circle of persons legally recognized as caregivers of a child or person with disabilities was expanded and they were provided with a higher amount of compensation.
- We also plan to regulate the service of personal assistance provided to persons with disabilities in their everyday activities.
- By doing this we aim to significantly increase the number of users of this service as well as the number of hours of personal assistance available to users.
- All persons with disabilities will have access to this service, regardless of the nature of their disabilities.
- But we can always do more, and we want to do more.
- We will continue to use all available human and material resources to make the life of people with disabilities in the Republic of Croatia better.
- Thank you!