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