



**ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΥΦΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΝΟΙΑΣ**

**CYPRUS STATEMENT**

**17th session of the Conference of the State Parties to the CRPD (COSP17)**

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Persons with disabilities at high risk of exclusion, as they face barriers to full and effective participation across all sectors of society.

After the ratification of the UNCRPD in 2011, the Republic of Cyprus has adopted its National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2018-2028 and implements National Disability Action Plans, defining the vision, values, strategic goals and actions for further fulfillment of the rights of citizens with disabilities, in all areas of their life. Our Disability Strategy and Action Plans are constantly revised taking also into account the opinions and suggestions of the organizations representing persons with disabilities. In the framework of the strategic plans of the new government that was elected in Cyprus in March 2023, we have now a revised National Disability Strategy and Action Plan for the period of 2024-2028, containing 73 new actions to be implemented by 8 Ministries and 4 Deputy Ministries in co-operation with the private sector and the organizations of persons with disabilities.

Building on our international commitments on protecting and promoting human rights, Cyprus presented its first ever candidature to become a member of the Human Rights Council for the period 2025-2027. To this end, we have announced our priorities covering an array of human rights policy areas, including on the rights of persons with disabilities. Our goal is to promote dignity, social inclusion and welfare of persons with disabilities and within the 5-year National Strategy and

Action Plan we target our efforts towards increasing their employment opportunities.

Currently, there is a series of measures in place to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities to decent work and sustainable livelihoods, such as:

- schemes financed by the European Social Fund offering incentives to employers in the private sector to recruit persons with disabilities,
- the subsidization of small units for self-employment,
- supported employment programs,
- a quota system for employment in the wider public sector, and
- the new law and regulations adopted in the last three years for the establishment of social enterprises

Reducing social and digital exclusion of persons with disabilities is promoted through:

- accessible Websites, Mobile Apps, audiovisual media services,
- accessible tourism points in Cyprus smart applications,
- full digital access to the emergency number “112”,
- state financial aid to buy equipment and assistive technology, such as computers, computer software, cell phones, communication devices, closed-circuit TVs, and
- the “Accessibility of Products and Services Law of 2024”, which was recently approved by our Parliament.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Cyprus is open for further discussions and possible cooperation with other states in order to expand its actions for the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities. International cooperation for the setting of common goals,

and the sharing of knowledge is a crucial tool for further fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities.