



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

820 Second Avenue, Suite 13A, New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 972-3105 Fax: (212) 972-3154 E-mail: dprk.un@verizon.net

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. KIM SONG, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations
at the General Debate of the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties
to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

(New York, 14 June 2023)

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). I am confident that this session will be successful under your able leadership.

Mr. President,

I take this opportunity to point out the policy and social initiatives that the government of the DPRK is consistently taking to promote and protect the dignity, rights and welfare of persons with disabilities at the highest level in connection with some recent achievements.

In our country, where the solid legal basis for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities has been established, the personality, rights and interests of persons with disabilities are absolutely respected and the projects for ensuring the working and cultural life, education and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities are being constantly improved.

Under the unified coordination of the National Committee for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the Korean Federation for Protection of Persons with Disabilities, step-by-step plans for bringing about a new turn in the protection of persons with disabilities are made more specific, and projects for ensuring the social position, mental and physical rehabilitation and establishment of barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities are pushed forward.

Especially, based on the principle of “Best things to children”, the government is implementing the policy to give priority to provide the best of everything necessary for the health, education and life of children and students with disabilities in order to let them grow brighter and more courageous with their hope and talent.

In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of ensuring inclusive and qualitative education, the government of the DPRK has taken practical measures while constantly updating policies and regulations to further improve education for children with disabilities and provide them equal qualitative education with other children.

The Korea Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities is intensifying scientific and technical studies for the rehabilitation and providing early special education to children with disabilities on the basis of a modern scientific and technological information dissemination center.

In addition, the Korea Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities is taking timely measures to the health promotion for the children with disabilities while classifying them by ages and types of disabilities based on recognizing the risk of infection by the global infectious diseases.

The vocational school for the person with disabilities is actively applying new methods of education including tele-education and home visit education in consideration of the physical conditions of each student with disabilities, so that the students who cannot attend school due to severe weather or those who are receiving medical treatment for rehabilitation can receive the whole curriculum without any interruption.

Furthermore, the vocational school is properly applying a special course with combination of practices and lectures in accordance with intellectual abilities of students with disabilities, and providing a practical training for their possession of one or more technical skills to participate in social life after graduating from school.

The Korean Association of Deaf and Blind is also contributing to the education of students with hearing impairments by developing various sign-language tutorial applications in cooperation with specialized organs.

Even after completing secondary education, students with disabilities are allowed to enroll in universities and vocational colleges and schools to receive higher education as their wishes, and measures are taken to place graduates from hearing and vision impaired schools in proper occupations.

Indeed, all persons and children with disabilities are fully enjoying a happy and worthwhile life with nothing to envy in the world thanks to the policies of the most superior socialist system.

Mr. President,

It is the consistent position of the government of the DPRK to develop international cooperation and exchange for the genuine promotion and protection of human rights including the protection of persons with disabilities.

The government of the DPRK remains committed to constantly follow through the people-oriented policies for providing more favorable life environment and condition and the improvement of health and welfare of persons with disabilities as a follow-up to upholding the people-first policy as its unwavering political ideal, and to fully implement its mission and obligations as a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you.