



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention
on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris,

Permanent Representative of Greece

New York, 13 June 2023

Thank you Chair,

Greece aligns with the Statement delivered by the European Union, and I would like to make some additional remarks under my national capacity.

The annual meeting of state-parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is one of the most important international occasions to discuss issues relating to CRPD. Having been ratified by 186 countries thus far, it is the Convention with the highest number of signatories.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities have been part of every forward-looking society and have been incorporated into the public policy planning at a national, regional and international levels.

In Greece, the government has demonstrated political will and leadership in deeds, by adopting, in 2020, the first National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which covers the period 2021 to 2027 and aims at long-term commitments and achievements.

The National Action Plan reflects the human rights-based approach to disability, as well as the content and structure of the Convention. It also responds to the Concluding Observations by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, following Greece's latest review process, which was held in 2019 in Geneva.

Seminal actions include the institution of the National Accessibility Authority, as an independent body that advises the Prime Minister, on issues of access and accessibility. The Plan has also codified relevant national legislation and incorporated targets aiming at combating discrimination.

This year, we are extremely honoured to have with us the President of the National Accessibility Authority, Professor Constantinos Stefanidis, as a Panelist on Roundtable 2 to address the issue of "Digital accessibility for persons with disabilities".

We would also like to express our appreciation to the President of the European Disability Forum (EDF) and President of the International Disability Alliance (IDA), Mr. Ioannis Vardakastanis, who is also President of the National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece (NCDP) – the umbrella organization of the Greek disability movement; his commitment and dedication to actively promoting the rights of persons with disabilities is well-known.

On a last note, I would like to mention that this year Greece is honoured to be participating as Vice-Chair at the Bureau of the Conference, representing WEOG.

I thank you.