



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



17th Conference of the State Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

General Debate

Statement by Greece

Your excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greece aligns itself with the statements by the European Union and the Group of Friends of Persons with Disabilities, and would like to add the following.

For Greece, the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, and their social inclusion, is of **utmost importance**.

In 2020, Greece adopted its first “**National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**”, for the years 2021 through to 2023. During this period, significant ‘capacity building’, ‘technical expertise’, and ‘broader public awareness’ have been achieved, including:

- the identification of the beneficiaries of the ‘disability card’, through the ‘Digital Registry of Persons with Disabilities’,
- the establishment of a pilot program for ‘early intervention’,
- the appointment of over 6,000 teachers and educational staff specialized in disability issues,
- the development of grant-supported business programs for the employment of over 3,000 unemployed people from vulnerable groups,
- and, the pilot implementation of the ‘Personal Assistant’ service.

Last month, the Greek government introduced its new “**National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2024 through to 2030**”, the cornerstone of the Government’s efforts to create a more inclusive, fair, and equitable society for all.

It is worth noting that this was the first fully accessible public consultation process so far in Greece, thus ensuring the highest level of participation from all citizens.



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The **primary goal** of this National Strategy is to enhance the ‘visibility’ and ‘inclusion’ of persons with disabilities. To achieve this, the notion of “**double convergence**” is deployed as a mechanism to ensure that accessibility and, in general, the quality of life of persons with disabilities will converge with that of (on the one hand) ‘the general population within Greece’, and (on the other hand) of ‘people with disabilities in the European Union’ - on average.

The end goal of this National Strategy is to create a society in which **no measurable difference exists** between persons with disabilities and the general population.

Dear colleagues,

As a vice-chair of COSP17, Greece would like to reiterate its commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its Additional Protocol.

In the run-up to the Summit of the Future, it is our responsibility to leave no-one behind!

Thank you for your attention.