



Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations

Statement by
H.E. Mr. László G. LOVÁSZY, Ph.D.,
Ministerial Commissioner for Strategic Government Research,
Prime Minister's Office of Hungary

**General Debate of the 16th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities:**

**“Harmonizing national policies and strategies with the CRPD: achievements and
challenges”**

13-15 June 2023, UN Headquarters, New York

Check against delivery!

Your Excellencies,

Hungary was one of the first State Parties signing the UN Convention as well as its Optional Protocol in 2007, thus, Hungary became the first state to ratify both the Convention and the Optional Protocol. Our efforts are to keep this dynamism during the implementation as well.

The Government of Hungary is committed to the implementation of the objectives declared by the Convention and we particularly support persons with disabilities to achieve independent living and self-determination as much as possible. In this regard, I would like to highlight the development of modern, 21st century info-communication tools and mobile applications, with the help of info-communication services. We believe that ICT remote services designed and developed tailored to the needs of different groups of persons with disabilities can contribute to a higher quality of life, so that they can live a full life without assisting persons at the venue. Our most important goal is to make the widest possible range of information, communication, public and other services electronically available to all, taking into account international and national standards and regulations. When talking about accessibility, the main issue is that of built environment in general. Why?

When it comes to standardisation, a very long time also passed before the so-called standard on *“Accessibility and usability of the built environment - Functional requirements”* was published – reference number is EN 17210 adopted in 2021. And a further two years went on when the adoption of the standard for *“Equal opportunity accessible and usable built environment - technical performance criteria and specifications”* technical report happened – reference number is EN 17621. This latter international standard was issued just this year! It means that the international community lags in terms of harmonised perspective of legislation and standardization for decades. It is a very good lesson to learn in order to exchange good practices.

Going beyond the public sector, almost a year ago, a new Act entered into force, which set up the accessibility requirements for several products and services in line with the relevant

EU Directive. Its scope covers, inter alia, most of the self-service terminals used by consumers, e.g. in banking and transport sectors, as well as some aspects of electronic communication, audio-visual and e-commerce services. We consider the Act a significant improvement. It aims at facilitating equal participation not only of persons with disabilities, but to all persons experiencing functional limitations. At the same time, we are aware that there is a long way to fully implement the provisions of this Act. However, we also understand that the key to the implementation is based on standardisation in terms of technological aspects. State Parties must reinforce their cooperation in standardization process as well, and we are looking forward to do so.

Finally, regarding the future, I would like to confirm our commitment to the continuation of the work both at national and EU level. In this regard, our intention is to use the opportunity created by the EU Presidency to be held by Hungary in the second half of 2024 and accelerate the implementation of the CRPD.