



Statement delivered by Mrs. Fatemeh Arab Bafrani, Second Secretary of the
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

During the General Debate of the 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties
to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Overarching theme: Harmonizing national policies and strategies with the CRPD:
achievements and challenges

New York, 14 June 2023

In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to appreciate all the efforts by the bureau and the secretariat for convening this session to address the rights of persons with disabilities in the framework of the Convention and the overarching theme of this year's conference.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken a multi-stakeholder approach following the ratification of the Convention in 2009 to address and, accordingly, work toward the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. It includes policymaking to budget allocation and implementing laws targeting their specific challenges and concerns, varying from addressing their specific health and economic issues to identifying and removing accessibility barriers in buildings, transportation, and open spaces. As the national mechanism in charge of this issue in my country, the State Welfare Organization is working diligently and scrupulously on this issue.

Accordingly, the national law on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities was approved in 2018, covering various issues affecting them, including 1) accommodation, accessibility, and mobility, 2) health, treatment, and rehabilitation services, 3) sports, artistic and educational affairs, 4) Entrepreneurship and occupation, 5) Housing, 6) public awareness raising, 7) Judicial support and tax-related facilities, and 8) Livelihood and employment supports.



I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the other activities and initiatives Iran is undertaking in this regard:

1. To eradicate poverty and economically empower persons with disabilities, microfinance services are provided in community-based rehabilitation programs, particularly in rural areas.
2. To ensure the accessibility and inclusion of services and facilities for persons with disabilities, a headquarters headed by the Minister of Interior was established in 2018. In addition to policy-making, planning, and monitoring, the said headquarters also coordinates activities of the executive bodies in this regard.
3. In an effort to provide persons with disabilities with equal employment opportunities, we have facilitated their recruitment and adaption of working conditions in governmental organizations to accommodate their needs.
4. In order to promote health and improve quality of their life, several activities have been undertaken, including offering various rehabilitation and support services for persons with disabilities by the health insurances, particularly by Salamat Health Insurance.
5. With the aim of maximum inclusion of these people in educational and rehabilitation programs and the comprehensive benefit of this group from the benefit of lifelong learning and ultimately improving the quality of their life, several educational programs are on the agenda of the relevant national organization, including but not limited to, supporting their education from pre-school to doctorate level, as well as providing specific education for their family members as well as the personnel and the teams working in rehabilitation centers.
6. In order to provide persons with disabilities with the opportunity and preparation to obtain a sustainable job, rehabilitation centers offer vocational training services to individuals over the age of 14 which include basic vocational training, cognitive and communication skills, along with other skills necessary to handle daily life activities.
7. To accommodate those individuals with high levels of disabilities who are unable to work in real work environments, non-governmental sector has set



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up dedicated production workshops in which workers can not only learn work skills but also produce products.

Mr. President,

The extraterritorial application of unilateral measures to targeted developing countries, including my own, is gravely concerning. As a result of the unlawful, inhumane, and immoral imposition of unilateral coercive measures by the United States, a country that has not ratified the CRPD yet, my country's efforts to realize the rights of persons with disabilities are adversely affected. The UCMs flagrantly violate international law and utterly bridge basic human rights. Therefore, we believe that a substantial part of our discussion should be devoted to persons with disabilities' rights and the UCMs. Furthermore, we urge the international community to join us in calling for the immediate removal of all UCMs to ensure persons with disabilities can enjoy their human rights without any restrictions.

I thank you