

Thank you Chair,

Israel is deeply committed to the promotion and protection of rights of persons with disabilities, and to full implementation, of each of the chapters of the CRPD.

During the past year, we have added a requirement for adequate representation of persons with disabilities in government-owned companies – an addition of tens of thousands of potential jobs for persons with disabilities;

We continue the work on regulating accessible health services and accessibility of cultural and sporting events;

Following our first appearance before the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Geneva, in which we showcased our accomplishments in implementing the Convention, we started constructing a national action plan for the full integrations of persons with disability in Israel, in every area specified in the convention.

During my third year as Commissioner for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Israel, my country endured a horrific terror attack, which effected all people in Israel – INCLUDING those with disabilities.

They are among the most vulnerable groups, who suffer and are most severely impacted during emergency situations.

In the spirit of the CRPD, Hamas did **not** discriminate, committing atrocities against persons with disabilities of all types and ages - from the elderly to small infants.

The number of persons with disabilities in Israel categorized as "victims of hostile actions", meaning, those affected by terror or war, prior to October 7, was around 8,800. Today, it is about 64,000 - a staggering 600% increase.

The attack required us to urgently shift our focus, and devote our vast resources, to address the new arising needs of the population, such as emergency treatment and assistance for persons with disabilities, establishment of accessible shelters, distribution of special "alert bracelets" for those who are hearing impaired, and many more initiatives - all in accordance with Chapter 11 of the CRPD.

As a final note, being here this week, and listening to the voices in this room, it is shocking to hear, how the very entity, who is responsible for the situation both in Israel, AND in Gaza, is not condemned, not acknowledged, and is not under any pressure.

To the arsenal of hostile actions, this organization employs against Israel, a new tool has recently been added: deliberate dissemination of completely false data and baseless accusations.

The statements in this room have proven – many of you have chosen the side of a terror regime, who is using these halls, as a tool to extend the war and cause further horrors.

The Hamas is a terror organization, and is responsible for the grave casualties and the entire situation in Gaza today.

Condemn Hamas, call for the immediate return of our hostages, call for the cessation of holding women and children as human shields.

Thank you
