Statement by the Vice-Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

item 5 (a) "General debate" (June 13, 2023, 15.00-18.00, GA Hall)

Mr. President, Excellencies, Dear participants,

Kazakhstan consistently works on creating an inclusive and accessible environment, where people can feel comfortable and socially protected, to achieve the goals of the Agenda 2030.

The principle of "leaving no one behind" is embodied in the "Fair Kazakhstan" Concept, initiated by the President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

To fully implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) amendments have been made to the national legislation and necessary practical measures have been taken.

On July 1 this year, the Social Code comes into force, introducing conceptually new approaches to the social security system and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their social integration.

In addition to the Ombudsperson for Human Rights, which is an independent mechanism for protecting the rights of all persons, the Ombudsperson institute for the rights of socially vulnerable categories has been recently introduced.

<u>The institution of the State social inspector</u> has been created, whose functions include monitoring and controlling the provision of social special services.

The quota is set for persons with disabilities in Parliament to increase their participation in decision-making.

All central and local executive state bodies, private and non-governmental sectors are jointly working on implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The country has a multi-level system of social support. More than 900 organizations provide special social services, rehabilitation centers in all regions assisting persons with disabilities. Additional centers are being built in 12 regions.

One of the priorities of human-centered approach outlined by the President Tokayev – is advanced <u>digital public services</u> and E-government platforms. The launch of the Social Services Portal allows persons with disabilities to choose a provider, technical means, and rehabilitation services, considering their individual needs. Disability evaluation can now be provided remotely.

I'm also pleased to announce that on June 7 this year, the Head of State signed the Law on Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

We reaffirm Kazakhstan's strong commitment to create inclusive environment for people with disabilities and ensure equal conditions for all.

Thank you for your attention!