

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECION

STATEMENT BY

**JOSEPH M. MOTARI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL PROTECION**

**DURING THE
GENERAL DISCUSSIONS AT THE 16th SESSION OF
THE CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES 2023**

13th -15th JUNE, 2023

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

Chairperson, Excellences and distinguished delegates,

Kenya is honored to participate in the 16th session of the conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the theme, **“Harmonizing national policies and strategies with the CRPD: achievements and challenges”**.

According to the last census of 2019, there are about 1 Million persons with disabilities with about 80% of them living in the rural areas. One of the commitments made in the Global Disability Summit of 2018, was to have accurate disaggregated data on disability. The government has rolled out a digital registration system that has so far captured data for 580,000 persons with disabilities. The government is in the process of conducting a national disability survey to collect comprehensive data for persons with disabilities.

In the last 3 years, the government has distributed over 150,000 assistive devices to persons with disabilities.

Chairperson,

Kenya is the first country in Africa to develop Digital Accessibility Standards for persons with disabilities. The

standards provide guidelines for ensuring that products, services, and opportunities are made accessible to all.

Currently, the government is providing full scholarship to 1200 learners with disabilities in secondary schools.

The government also offers monthly cash transfer to 47,000 persons with severe disabilities and plans to double the number in the next financial year.

The Government has also initiated specific support programs targeting persons with autism and other related developmental disabilities and those with albinism.

The government of the day is targeting to provide 100% health coverage to all persons with disabilities.

The Convention stipulates that persons with disabilities have a right of access to information through different mediums with Article 9 covering accessibility including ICTs while Article 30 covers television programmes, films, theatre, and other cultural activities.

Chairperson,

To ensure that the under represented groups of persons with disabilities are reached, the government is providing free legal aid and referrals for pro bono representation in cases involving violations of the rights of persons with disabilities especially disability benefits, insurance claims, special education, gender based violence among others.

Kenya is among the first african country to ratify the African charter on the rights of persons of disabilities.

Chairperson,

In **conclusion**, Kenya is committed to drive the Disability Agenda forward for the betterment of the welfare and inclusion of all persons with disabilities around the globe.

THANK YOU