



16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, General Debate, 13 June 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ms. Julia Farrugia Portelli, Minister for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights

President,

Malta aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and the statement of the UN LGBTI Core Group.

Harmonising national policies and strategies with the precepts of the UNCRPD is at the core of the Government of Malta's work in promoting the rights, participation, and inclusion of all disabled people.

Guided by the Convention, in 2021, Malta launched National Strategies on both Disability and Autism. This was done with the full participation of civil society, including disability organisations, professionals, family members and practitioners, and most importantly disabled individuals themselves. Besides mirroring Malta's international obligations under the UNCRPD, these strategies align with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework on disaster risk management and reduction.

We look forward to sharing Malta's experience in implementing our National Autism Strategy with different delegations, including during the side events that will be organised.



Since it ratified the UNCRPD in 2012, Malta has been committed to implementing the main principle behind the Convention – ‘Nothing About Us, Without Us’. This is why disabled people have been the key drivers in drafting and implementing our national strategies. In fulfilment of Article 4(3) of the Convention, and General Comment No. 7, last January, Malta set up ENGAGE. ENGAGE brings together disabled people from different walks of life, together with representatives of academia and the national regulator, to discuss all policies made by Government before these are referred further.

One important piece of legislation being considered by this Committee tackles forced sterilisation, answering the calls from different activists and civil society organisations, to ensure respect for the free, full, and informed consent of disabled people at all times and under all circumstances.

Finally, we remain committed to the global push towards de-institutionalisation. Malta has been working hard over the past year, to ensure that this can become a reality for disabled people in our country.

Malta will continue to engage with the European Network on Independent Living, which is currently working with ‘Agenzija Support’, our State disability service provider, and with civil society, to bring about this change.



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We look forward to a fruitful Conference, in particular to the return to in-person meetings, which we hope will increase the exchange of knowledge and networking opportunities.

I thank you.