

**17th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities
Interactive Dialogue with the United Nations System
13 June 2024, 16:00-17:00, Conference Room 4**

Statement by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Excellencies, dear colleagues,

It is my honour to address the seventeenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Today we stand at a critical moment, just 100 days before the Summit of the Future.

Last year, when we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, more than 30 States made pledges to strengthen efforts to implement disability rights – including by amending laws, establishing ombudspersons, improving their participation in the labour market, and protecting their rights in armed conflict.

As we look ahead to the Summit of the Future, and next year's Second World Summit for Social Development, it is vital to carry forward such commitments with concrete actions that would truly ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Excellencies,

Tremendous progress has been made since the adoption of the Convention almost 20 years ago.

But still, many barriers continue to obstruct the full realization of rights of all persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities continue to struggle against deeply entrenched bias, damaging stereotypes and unfounded, irrational fears.

The support and care systems they need are severely lacking.

And where they do exist, many, particularly women and girls with disabilities, face shocking abuse and practices such as forced sterilization, treatment against their will, or even institutionalization.

Conflicts and disasters are having particularly severe and long-lasting effects on persons with disabilities, with the destruction or disruption of critical infrastructure, support services and networks.

The Pact for the Future and the Declaration on the Future Generations must articulate our vision with clarity and conviction to overcome these challenges.

The transformation of care and support systems for current and future generations of persons with disabilities is key.

The current care economy needs to be transformed into care and support systems that fully respect the rights of persons with disabilities, women and girls and older persons.

Human rights-based care and support systems would uphold the autonomy of persons with disabilities, enabling them to act with agency and live independently.

As such, they are preconditions for the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in the communities on an equal basis with others.

Dear colleagues,

Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are, and must remain, an integral part of all decision-making processes.

In Tunisia, our Office has been working with the Government and civil society to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in decision-making, through the introduction of sign language and Braille for deaf people.

In Mongolia, OHCHR helped Government to develop a housing programme that aims to improve the inclusion, accessibility and quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families.

And in many other countries, OHCHR has been working with Governments, UN partners, civil society, NHRIs and OPDs on legislative and policy reforms, capacity building and ratification, reporting and follow-up to CRPD.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Disability rights offer precious common ground in which we can all work together and strengthen solidarity.

By working with fully empowered people with disabilities, and their representative organizations, we can translate their rights into lived realities.

Our Office stands ready to support you in every step of the way towards our transformed world.

Thank you.
