

<General Debate of the 16th COSP>

Overarching Theme: Harmonizing national policies and strategies with the CRPD: achievements and challenges

Thank you, Mr. President.

It is an honor to be here representing the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Since joining the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities(CRPD) in 2008, the Korean government has steadily endeavored to harmonize its national policies with the CRPD.

The Korean government ratified the Optional Protocol in December 2022.

Through this, we hope that the individual complaints procedure will guarantee a more effective implementation of the CRPD.

Also, the current government has been actively carrying out the tasks related to the United Nations CRPD as a national

project.

To this end, the Korean government is preparing measures on the national level to fully implement the concluding observations made by the CRPD on the combined second and third periodic reports last year.

In March this year, the government collected general opinions from persons with disabilities and related experts to establish the Sixth Comprehensive Policy Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2023–2027), a mid–long–term plan to provide direction to disability–related policies for the next five years.

This comprehensive plan contains mid–long–term vision and strategy to create a happy society that realizes the freedom and equality of persons with disabilities, including the introduction of integrated services customized for the needs of persons with disabilities.

Specifically, it includes:

strengthening life–cycle care for persons with developmental

disabilities and services to reduce the burden on the parents of children with disabilities;

the adoption of a personal budget system through which persons with disabilities can select services by themselves;

the expansion of health care services and infrastructure for persons with disabilities in the community;

the reinforcement of transportation and infrastructure to ensure the right to mobility;

and the expansion of support for daily sports, culture & arts, tourism.

Despite the achievements and plans mentioned so far, our government is well aware of the challenges to implementing the CRPD, due to the limitations of the workforce and budget.

The Government of the Republic of Korea will devote its best efforts to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas of life by having discussions with diverse stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, academia and legislative

bodies, to align with the policy changes of international society.

Thank you.