



Statement by Romania

16th Session Of The Conference Of States Parties To The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

New York, 13-15 June 2023

Mr. Chair,

Romania aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and Joint Statement of the Group of Countries on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. Allow me to present a few remarks in my national capacity.

Romania is proactively engaged to respect and support the creation of conditions that allow the full and active participation in all areas of life for persons with disabilities as framed by the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

The central coordinating authority for the implementation of the Convention is a specialized Agency - *National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The list of the achievements of our Authority is long, particularly against the background of COVID-19 pandemic and the wave of refugees from Ukraine, some of which are also disabled and are entitled to access the same services as the Romanian citizens. But I will resume to five of them:

The first is support for deinstitutionalisation. Our strategic goal is to achieve independent living for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the principles of the UN CRDP.

The second pillar is related to a reinforced network for social services. Romania has initiated a series of flagship projects to develop and to further expand the social services network for persons with disabilities. This is where the new technologies bring added value.

The third pillar is related to boosting employment for persons with disabilities by means of developing vocational counselling, supporting work adaptation as well as accessibilities in the work place.

The fourth pillar relates to better regulation and simplification, particularly with regard to strengthening the capacity for local authorities to deliver social services.

And the fifth pillar is related to enhancing legal representation for persons with disabilities through legislative amendments that reflect a new view on guardianship, as well as a new methodology for assessment of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Chair,

Recently, in April 2023, Romania adopted a new law that extended accessibility for persons with disabilities by means of the new technologies. Its goal is to ensure independent living and integration in the community, including the access to public services. As the Secretary General put it in the opening of COSP16, *leaving no one behind means leaving no one offline*.

The Government of Romania already implements this recommendation. The national disability management system responsible for the collection and real-time processing of information on disability was recently (March 2023) integrated in the governmental cloud.

Here in New York, on the first day of the opening of COSP 16, Romania organized together with ITU and the European Commission a side-event on digital accessibility. We showcased the good practices of the Romanian Department for Emergency Situations which organised in February this year, together with the UN DRR, the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, focused on communicating in risk situations. A special attention was given to communicating to people with disabilities and Romanian good practices were offered regarding the alert system, for which we employ and deploy state-of-the art ICT systems.

We are aware of the challenges and steps that still have to be taken to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. But we remain committed to walk the talk and reach the objective of achieving a fully accessible and inclusive society.

Thank you!