



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Damiano Beleffi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of San Marino
to the United Nations**

**16th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of People
with Disabilities
(New York, 13-15 June 2023)**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened pre-existing inequalities, creating multiple challenges for vulnerable groups.

Globally, the situation for people with disabilities has further worsened. Regrettably, for people with disabilities living in zones affected by humanitarian crisis, their challenges have even multiplied.

San Marino is deeply concerned for the challenges and new threats that people with disabilities have to face in their daily life, including poverty, unemployment, risk of violence and abuses.

We need to address with urgency the needs of people with disabilities, who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

San Marino was among the first countries to sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Since its ratification in 2008, the Government of San Marino has been working on the implementation of the provisions and principles contained in the CRPD through the establishment of the San Marino Commission.



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The CRPD says that disability has no longer to be conceived as a disease, but must be experienced in the awareness that diversity is part of human condition. From this new perspective, in San Marino we have left behind a medical approach to disability in favor of a social perspective based on human rights and fundamental freedoms as set out in the CRPD.

For several years, San Marino is taking this new approach not only by enlarging the availability of new services, but also by taking decisions and adopting laws that concern directly persons with disabilities.

In order to implement this new approach, we are involving Sammarinese NGOs and persons with disabilities in institutional working groups.

Following this new approach, one of the most recent measures taken in San Marino is the establishment of a Disability Helpdesk on December 2021. The main task of the Desk is to inform, support and protect persons with disabilities with the aim to reach a better independence and social inclusion. In this context, we are also offering classes and projects for kids with intellectual disabilities.

Mr. President,

Realizing the rights of persons with disabilities is central for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for our promise to leave no one behind.

We need to build accessible, inclusive and non-discriminatory societies, where people with disabilities can fully participate in the political, social and economic aspects of the community, where they are involved in the decision-making process and where their value is fully recognized.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by informing that San Marino will host the Second Conference of UNWTO on Accessible Tourism in Europe, which will take place on 16 and 17 November 2023.

Now it is the time to build back better. San Marino is ready to do its part.

Thank you.