



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia

at the

16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Item 5 (a): General Debate

New York, 13 June 2023

Mr/Mrs Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the ratification of the UN CRPD and its Optional Protocol in 2008 and based on awareness that it is necessary to harmonize the national legislation with the UN CRPD, Slovenia adopted a broad range of important legislation for the implementation and realisation of the Convention as well as Agenda 2030 and in line with the EU legislation.

Let me point out the most important national legislations that applies to the harmonisation of the convention into national legislation, and the first to point out is horizontal Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act which prohibits any discrimination against persons with disabilities. Next are Social Inclusion of Disabled Persons Act, the Personal Assistance Act, the inclusion of Slovene Sign Language and the Language of the Deafblind in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, new Access to Products and Services for Persons with Disabilities horizontal Act and already the third Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022 – 2030, which measures impact all areas of persons with disability life.

It is important to mention that Slovenian Constitution explicitly mentions the right of persons with disabilities to equality before the law. The Constitutional Court established years ago that the right of persons with disabilities to special protection is a special human right, a right of a positive status. As such, the state undertook to actively manage disability policy and to take various measures within the scope of the policy to improve the situation of persons with disabilities in our society.

Moreover, Slovenia successfully carried out several international projects focused on society without discrimination and full accessibility without barriers in all areas of life of persons with disabilities, which is also one of the primary values of the convention.

Challenges for all of us are in social changes that occur within the life of an entire community, not just in the life of an individual or a group. Therefore, we need to accept the development of social changes and proceed with modernization which is the process towards innovative and technologically driven societies.

Mr/Mrs Chair,

Allow me to conclude by saying that Slovenia has been successfully harmonizing its national legislation in line with the convention, pursues changes in society and respects the obligations undertaken upon the ratification of the convention. At the same time, it encourages all persons with disabilities to actively participate and take on important roles to recognize their importance in co-shaping the future society.

Slovenia is determined to consistently meet the needs of persons with disabilities and continue to ensure full protection of their rights.

Thank you.