



National Statement

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

The 16th session of the Conference of States Parties

Overarching theme:

Aligning National Policies and Strategies with CRPD: Progress and Challenges

13 -15 June 2023

Excelencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to convey our thanks to the Secretariat for their efforts in organizing this Conference.

Türkiye has taken important steps in harmonizing its national legislation with the CRPD. Particularly, **significant legal arrangements** were made in 2013 and 2014 to strengthen the human rights-based approach such as changing the stereotyping and discriminatory expressions.

In addition, “**2030 Barrier-Free Vision Document**” was announced by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Türkiye in 2021 in order to realize the legal, institutional and practical measures to protect and develop the rights of PwDs with a human rights-based and inclusive approach.

In the context of this high-level policy document, which reveals the vision of “**building an inclusive society where PwDs can realize their potential**”, 31 targets have been identified in policy areas namely;

- Inclusive and Accessible Society
- Protection of Rights and Justice
- Health and Well-being
- Inclusive Education
- Economic Security
- Independent Living
- Disaster and Humanitarian Emergencies
- Implementation and Monitoring

As the first implementation tool of the Barrier-Free Vision Document, “**The National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**” covering the years of 2023-2025 was shared with the public on the 2nd of December 2022. It has been drafted up with a participatory approach with the contributions of public institutions, CSOs and universities.

The **Presidential Circular** was published in 2023 in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Action Plan by all stakeholders.

As is known, there are still challenges in areas such as **implementations, coordination, effective cooperation and disaggregated data.**

As envisioned in Article 33 of CRPD, **the Monitoring and Evaluation Board on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** has been strengthened in 2021 as a high-level coordination mechanism to overcome these type of challenges. The Board in which the CSOs are also represented has the task of monitoring the Action Plan as well.

We believe that this Conference, which offers the opportunity for international cooperation and sharing of experience, will make significant contributions to the progress in alignment of national policies and strategies with the CRPD and to reveal the challenges at the global level.

I thank you.