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| _unlogo | **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** | | Distr.: Restricted  22 August 2016  Original: English  English, French and Spanish only  ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION |

**Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Concluding Observations in relation to the initial report of United Arab Emirates

**I. Introduction**

1. The Committee considered the initial report of United Arab Emirates (CRPD/C/ARE/1) at its 275th and 276th meetings, held on 18 and 19 August 2016, respectively, and adopted the following concluding observations at its 291st meeting, held on 30 August 2016.
2. The Committee welcomes the initial report of the State party, which was prepared in accordance with the Committee’s reporting guidelines, and thanks the State party for the written replies (CRPD/C/ARE/Q/1/Add.1) to the list of issues prepared by the Committee.
3. The Committee appreciates the dialogue held with the State party’s delegation and commends the State party for the strength of its delegation, which included many representatives of relevant Government ministries.

**II. Positive aspects**

1. The Committee commends the initial steps to put in place legislation, mechanisms and programmes to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including those improving physical accessibility, the guarantee of free health services, a special hotline for victims of violence with disabilities, the Federal Act No.9 of 2011 providing for priority access to employment in federal government agencies for persons with disabilities and the “We are all children” initiative launched in 2011 to integrate children with disabilities in kindergartens. The Committee also welcomes the State party’s accession in 2014 to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1-4)

1. The Committee notes that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention. It also notes that the State party has not ratified other international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

1. **The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention as soon as possible and that it consider ratifying the international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.**

1. The Committee is concerned that:
2. Legislation on persons with disabilities dates from pre-ratification of the Convention, has not been harmonized with the latter and does not reflect the human rights model of disability;
3. The definition of disability in Federal Act No. 29 of 2006 as amended by Federal Act No. 14 of 2009 is not in accordance with the criteria and principles in articles 1 to 3 of the Convention;
4. Derogatory terminology concerning persons with disabilities has not yet been eliminated from all laws, policies and government discourse;
5. Insufficient measures have been taken to ensure implementation of the Convention at the local level throughout the State party;
6. There is a heavy focus on creating specialized solutions which lead to segregation of persons with disabilities.
7. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, adopt all necessary measures to ensure full compliance of legislation, policies and practices with the general principles and specific provisions in the Convention. In particular, the Committee recommends that the State party:**
8. **Undertake a comprehensive legislative and policy review in order to adopt, ensure and enforce the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability and the full transition to a human rights-based model of disability;**
9. **Bring the definition of disability in the national legislation in full conformity with the criteria and principles in articles 1 to 3 of the Convention;**
10. **Ensure that derogatory terminology is eliminated from all laws, policies and government discourse;**
11. **Engage in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities and their access to services for their full inclusion in the community.**
12. The Committee notes with concern:
13. That it did not receive any alternative reports from the Emirati civil society, including organisations of persons with disabilities;
14. The lack of consultation of persons with disabilities and difficulties for independent organizations of persons with disabilities and their families to engage in human rights advocacy regarding better implementation of the Convention;
15. That fundations and other civil society organisations providing services to persons with disabilities do not fully comply with the provisions of the Convention in service provision.
16. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
17. **Adopt the necessary measures, including a review of existing laws and their current requirements; the provision of financial and other support; and the establishment of a formal mechanism recognized in the law to ensure that independent organizations of persons with disabilities can register as associations with self-governance, and are enabled to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Convention in relation to law- and policy-making through systematic participation and consultation;**
18. **Ensure that all foundations and civil society organizations engaged in service provision, including organizations of persons with disabilities, comply with the principles and the provisions of the Convention, through the development of guidelines and standards for service provision in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities;**
19. **Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities** **have the freedom to independently engage with the United Nations’ human rights mechanisms.**

B. Specific rights (arts. 5–30)

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

1. The Committee is concerned:
2. About absence in the national legislation of reference to denial of reasonable accommodation and discrimination by association as forms of disability-based discrimination;
3. About the lack of training, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, on the concept of reasonable accommodation and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities to public and private actors, in particular members of the legal profession, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, civil servants, employers, educational and health professionals, and persons with disabilities themselves;
4. About the lack of specific legislation concerning protection against multiple and intersectional discrimination.
5. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
6. **Explicitly define in national law denial of reasonable accommodation and discrimination by association as forms of disability-based discrimination;**
7. **Provide training, in consultation and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities , on the concept of reasonable accommodation and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities to public and private actors, in particular members of the legal profession, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, civil servants, employers, educational and health professionals, and persons with disabilities themselves;**
8. **Incorporate in national law an explicit protection against multiple and intersectional discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability, migrant status, among other grounds, accompanied by higher sanctions for perpetrators and higher compensation and redress for victims;**
9. **Be guided by article 5 of the Convention in the implementation of targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Women with disabilities (art. 6)

1. The Committee is concerned about:
2. The multiple forms of discrimination that women and girls with disabilities experience in the State party, including as relates to loss of personal status and rights within the family as set out in the Personal Status Law and Penal Code, and the lack of measures taken to address it;
3. The overall lack of information on the social, economic and political situation of women and girls with disabilities, and measures taken to increase the limited participation of women with disabilities in making decisions affecting them.
4. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
5. **Repeal all legal provisions including within the law on personal status and the Penal Code (CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/2-3, para. 14) in order to ensure that women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, enjoy rights within the family on an equal basis with men;**
6. **Carry out awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes at all levels, particularly targeted at the family level, in order to foster respect for the rights and dignity of women and girls with disabilities, and combat stereotypes, prejudices and misconceptions about women and girls with disabilities;**
7. **Mainstream, in consultation with representative organizations of women and girls with disabilities, their rights across the women’s rights agenda with a view to developing policies to promote their autonomy and full participation in society,**
8. **Be guided by article 6 of the Convention and the Committee’s general comment No.3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities in the implementation of target 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

1. The Committee is concerned at the absence of:
2. A strategy to promote the exercise by girls and boys with disabilities of their freedoms and rights on an equal basis with other children;
3. Data about girls and boys with disabilities and of systematic information on measures and support available for starting independent life available to children with disabilities reaching adulthood;
4. Means for girls and boys with disabilities to express their views on all matters that concern them.
5. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
6. **Take all the necessary steps to promote the realization of the rights of the child for girls and boys with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and provide adequate support for girls and boys with disabilities to help them start an independent life when they reach adulthood;**
7. **Ensure safeguards to protect the right of girls and boys with disabilities to be consulted in all matters that concern them and to ensure that they receive appropriate assistance in this regard.**

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

1. The Committee is concerned:
2. That the State party considers primary prevention of impairment as a measure promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and in this way contributes to perpetuating a negative image of persons with disabilities, contrary to the Convention;
3. That persons with disabilities are perceived within the family and society in general, as lacking the ability to live independently and to participate and be included in the community on an equal basis with others;
4. About the lack of awareness of persons with disabilities about their rights under the Convention and services available.
5. **The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to promote an image of persons with disabilities compatible with the human rights model of disability, to ensure that any rehabilitation, treatment, or prevention of disability policy does not undermine the dignity of persons with disabilities and to establish, together with organizations of persons with disabilities , awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention and based on the human rights model of disability in order to overcome entrenched gender and disability stereotypes in society.**

Accessibility (art. 9)

1. The Committee is concerned that initiatives to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities mostly address physical disabilities, are not systematic, are often associated with charitable initiatives and are limited in scope. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of:
2. Specific binding legal and policy frameworks to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to all facilities and services open or provided to the public throughout the State party, including access to information, communications and transport;
3. Cases where legal sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines have been applied.
4. **In light of its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:**
5. **Adopt legislation for barrier-free facilities and services open to the public and a comprehensive accessibility plan, with additional attention paid to communication-related needs, the allocation of sufficient resources, enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance, obligatory accessibility criteria for public procurement, and a road map for removal of existing barriers based on detailed data with a concrete timeframe and monitoring and enforcement mechanism;**
6. **Promote universal design for all buildings and public services, information and social communication media, transport and services open to the public, and incorporate accessibility standards into public procurement criteria;**
7. **Be guided by article 9 of the Convention in the implementation of targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

1. The Committee notes that in 2009 the Ministry of Social Affairs issued technical guidelines for civil defence personnel on ways to plan the evacuation of persons with disabilities in emergency situations. The Committee is however concerned:
2. That apart from these guidelines there is a lack of strategies, protocols and tools to prevent, protect, inform, assist and involve persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;
3. About the lack of detailed information regarding the training provided to all staff involved in the evacuation of persons with disabilities during emergencies.
4. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
5. **Adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;**
6. **Provide on regular basis training to persons charged with the task of evacuating persons with disabilities in the event of an emergency.**

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

1. The Committee is deeply concerned about legislative provisions that make it possible to restrict and deny the legal capacity of persons with disabilities enshrined in, among others, Federal Act No. 5 of 1985 Civil Code, Federal Personal Status Act No. 28 of 2005, and Federal Act No. 29 of 2006 as amended by Federal Act No. 14 of 2009, and the Criminal Code, including in relation to the right to marry. The Committee is also concerned that women in the State party, including women with disabilities, continue to be subjected to male guardianship.
2. **Recalling its general comment No. 1, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal regimes of substituted decision-making (among others, provisions of Federal Act No. 5 of 1985, Federal Personal Status Act No. 28 of 2005, and Federal Act No. 29 of 2006 as amended by Federal Act No. 14 of 2009, and the Criminal Code) and replace them by supported decision-making regimes which uphold the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends the State party to abolish altogether the system of male guardianship for women, including both women with disabilities and other women.**

Access to justice (art. 13)

1. The Committee is concerned:
2. That judicial officials are unaware of the rights of persons with disabilities and that the justice sector has no programmes specifically designed to provide assistance to persons with disabilities;
3. At the lack of accessibility within the justice system, including legal aid and assistance, sign language interpreters in court rooms, as well as procedural accommodations, despite the issuance of Ministerial Decree No. 619 of 2015;
4. At the lack of information about concrete court cases initiated by persons with disabilities;
5. At the lack of measures taken to address the challenges faced by women, especially non-citizen women, in accessing justice when they report having experienced violence.
6. **The Committee recommends that the State party implement:**
7. **The training of court staff, judges, police and prison staff to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities including the right to a fair trial and the obligation to provide procedural accommodation;**
8. **Measures to ensure in practice physical, informational and communicational accessibility of all judicial facilities, such as the provision of professional sign language interpreters, Braille and other procedural accommodations;**
9. **Measures to collect quantitative and qualitative data about court cases initiated by persons with disabilities;**
10. **Measures to address the challenges faced by women, especially non-citizen women, in accessing justice when they report having experienced violence;**
11. **Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

1. The Committee is concerned:
2. About the involuntary detention of persons in specialised institutions on the basis of their impairment as well as the deprivation of liberty based on disability, including intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
3. That persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities accused of an offence are declared unfit to stand trial and not given due process.
4. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
5. **Repeal all legislation that authorises institutionalisation without the free and informed consent of the person, including cases where consent is substituted by a third party, and repeal all laws that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability;**
6. **Ensure that persons with disabilities accused of an offence are entitled to a fair trial and due process of law guarantees on an equal basis with others, including the presumption of innocence;**
7. **Be guided by the Committee’s guidelines on article 14 of the Convention on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities in the implementation of these recommendations.**

Freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 15)

1. The Committee is concerned that:
2. Federal Act No. 10 of 2008 on medical liability and other laws allow guardians or legal representatives to consent to medical research or experiments on behalf of persons with disabilities;
3. Corporal punishment remains lawful in alternative care settings, at home, day care and as a sentence for crime and is not explicitly prohibited in private schools;
4. Parents have the right to ‘chastise’ their children, including children with disabilities;
5. There is lack of information on how corporal punishment affects persons with disabilities in all settings, including as relates to migrant workers, and especially domestic migrant workers.
6. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
7. **Repeal all laws allowing guardians or legal representatives to consent to medical research or experiments on behalf of persons with disabilities, including** **Federal Act No. 10 of 2008 ;**
8. **Enact a prohibition of all corporal punishment in all settings;**
9. **Provide information in its next periodic report on measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, including migrant workers with disabilities, from corporal punishment.**

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)

1. The Committee is concerned that marital rape is not criminalized and husbands have the right to “chastise” their wives, including those with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of:
2. A specific law criminalizing domestic violence, including sexual violence and incest, which often goes unreported;
3. A disability perspective in policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation;
4. Data on the protection of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls as well as migrant workers, from exploitation, violence and abuse;
5. Accessible complaints mechanisms and victim support services;
6. Training activities organized on preventing and addressing violence against persons with disabilities.
7. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
8. **Adopt a law explicitly criminalizing domestic violence, including marital rape, and establish a comprehensive domestic violence protection system, mainstreaming the rights and needs of women and girls with disabilities therein, including through consulting with their representative organizations;**
9. **Repeal article 53 of the Penal Code and other laws giving husbands the right to “chastise” their wives;**
10. **Develop policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation, mainstream the disability perspective within it and step up measures to protect persons with disabilities, especially women and girls and migrant workers, from exploitation, violence and abuse;**
11. **Collect disaggregated data on violence against persons with disabilities, especially women, children and migrant workers and conduct research on the issue;**
12. **Establish accessible and inclusive complaints mechanisms and guarantee the provision of accessible information and inclusive victim support services that are sufficient in number and location, in particular for women and girls with disabilities;**
13. **Institute regular training on preventing and addressing violence against persons with disabilities for all relevant authorities and other stakeholders, including the police, prosecutors, judges, social workers and health professionals.**

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

1. The Committee is concerned that the national legislation, including article 13 of Federal Act No. 10 of 2008, permits the involuntary or forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, and allows sterilization upon the consent of a third party.
2. **The Committee recommends that the State party repeal article 13 of Federal Act No. 10 of 2008 and review its legislation to explicitly prohibit involuntary or forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, including sterilization upon the consent of a third party.**

Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)

1. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about:
2. The conditions in deportation and detention centres, including on accessibility and reasonable accommodation in those centres for migrant workers with disabilities;
3. Applications of persons with disabilities for naturalization and whether the naturalization procedure is accessible to them on an equal basis and without restrictions;
4. The nationality status of Bidouns with disabilities and birth registration of Bidoun children with disabilities and their enjoyment of rights and access to services.
5. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that:**
6. **Detention and deportation centers are accessible to migrant workers with disabilities and that migrant workers with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodation;**
7. **Naturalization procedures are fully accessible to persons with disabilities and that any person with disabilities can choose to apply for Emirati nationality on an equal basis with others;**
8. **All Bidouns with disabilities enjoy their right to nationality and have access to services and that all Bidoun children with disabilities have a birth certificate and are able to exercise all their rights under the Convention.**

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

1. The Committee is concerned that a number of cultural, social and environmental challenges prevent the enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their rights to live independently and be included in the community, including the absence of a strategy to develop inclusive community based services and the provision of personal assistance.
2. **The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including Bidouns, to live independently and be included in the community, which includes developing community based services such as provision of personal assistance and rendering existing services inclusive, regardless of place of residence, and to systematically provide information to persons with disabilities and their families on how to claim support services and assistance that would enable them to live independently in accordance with their own choices and as part of the community.**

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)

1. The Committee is concerned that there is no official recognition of Emirati sign languages and that the efforts to train qualified sign language interpreters have been insufficient.
2. **The Committee recommends the State party to take measures to officially recognize Emirati sign languages and to intensify its efforts to train qualified sign language interpreters.**

Respect for the home and the family (art. 23)

1. The Committee is concerned that:
2. The national legislation restricts marriage on the basis of disability and requires a prenuptial medical examination for persons with disabilities to receive a financial assistance grant;
3. Discriminatory laws and policies prevent the enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, in particularly women, in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others;
4. The State party has not adopted any measures to ensure adequate support to families of children with disabilities or adults who require a high degree of support.
5. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
6. **Repeal legislation restricting marriage on the basis of disability and requiring a prenuptial medical examination for persons with disabilities;**
7. **Repeal discriminatory provisions of family and other laws to ensure equal rights of all women and men with disabilities in matters related to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships;**
8. **Ensure support to parents with disabilities and to families of children with disabilities, including adults who require a high degree of support.**

Education (art. 24)

1. The Committee is concerned:
2. That priority is still given to the provision of special education, including in mainstream schools, over the development of a fully inclusive educational system and that there is absence of a comprehensive strategy for quality inclusive education;
3. That the State party has not taken sufficient steps to provide reasonable accommodation to all students with disabilities in mainstream schools, including children with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities;
4. That training on inclusive education and teaching children with disabilities is not yet an integral part of core teacher training curricula in universities;
5. About the emphasis on vocational and crafts skills as opposed to academic training for persons with disabilities;
6. About the lack of information about illiteracy among older adults with disabilities and about opportunities to access vocational training and tertiary education;
7. About the lack of disaggregated statistical data on children with disabilities in inclusive education and of teachers trained on inclusive education and teaching children with disabilities;
8. About the lack of assessment of quality of education for children with disabilities.
9. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
10. **Adopt all necessary legal and other measures, including a comprehensive strategy to ensure the right of all children with disabilities, including children with intellectual or psycho-social disabilities, to compulsory and free primary inclusive and quality education in public and private settings, including by ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation, assistive devices, support and accessible curricula, materials and environments;**
11. **Reorient resources from segregated educational settings towards quality inclusive education with the provision of reasonable accommodation and individual supports, accessible environments and curricula, for all students with disabilities in mainstream schools at all levels and mandatory in-service training of all teachers and all staff in education facilities on quality inclusive education;**
12. **Ensure that compulsory training on inclusive education and teaching children with disabilities is an integral part of core teacher training curricula in universities;**
13. **Be guided by article 24 of the Convention and the Committee’s general comment No. 4 (2016) on right to inclusive education in the implementation of targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals;**
14. **Provide in its next periodic report information about illiteracy among older adults with disabilities and about opportunities to access vocational training and tertiary education and statistical data on the percentage of children with disabilities in inclusive education and of teachers trained on inclusive education and teaching children with disabilities;**
15. **Takes measures to assess the quality of education of children with disabilities.**

Health (art.25)

1. The Committee is concerned about:
2. The existence of national legislation inconsistent with the right of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent in relation to medical treatment and the absence of legislation that explicitly recognizes this right for persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;
3. The lack of information about how the mandatory HIV/AIDS testing policies for pregnant women and migrant workers impact on right to health for persons with disabilities;
4. The lack of accessible health care services and information, including sexual and reproductive health services;
5. The lack of training for all health professionals on the human rights of persons with disabilities.
6. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
7. **Repeal legislation that violates the right of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent in relation to medical treatment and enact legislation that explicitly recognizes this right for persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;**
8. **Revise the policy of mandatory HIV/AIDS testing which goes against free and informed consent;**
9. **Develop a wide range of community-based health services and ensure their accessibility, including health services and information for women with disabilities on their rights enshrined in article 25 of the Convention;**
10. **Raise awareness of the human rights model of disability among all health professionals, including training on the right to free and informed consent.**
11. **Be guided by article 25 of the Convention in the implementation of target 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Habilitation and rehabilitation (art. 26)

1. The Committee is concerned that policies on habilitation and rehabilitation overemphasize health-related issues and that non-citizens have a lack of access to habilitation and rehabilitation services and devices.
2. **The Committee recommends that the State party develop comprehensive cross-sectorial habilitation and rehabilitation services and programs, based on participation and inclusion, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, available to persons with disabilities, including non-citizens, in or as close as possible to their own communities.**

Work and employment (art. 27)

1. The Committee is concerned about:
2. The lack of inclusive employment policies and the low employment rate of persons with disabilities in spite of a quota system, in particular regarding women, whose participation in employment may, in practice, be conditional upon consent of a male guardian;
3. The insufficient placement services and continuing training opportunities for persons with disabilities;
4. The lack of protection and compensation under the labour law for migrant workers, especially domestic workers, subjected to the *kafalah* system, who have acquired an impairment as a result of their work in the State party.
5. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
6. **Take measures to eliminate discriminatory practices on the basis of impairment and gender and adopt the necessary policies and measures, including affirmative action, to significantly increase the employment rate of persons with disabilities, especially women, in the open labour market in public and private sectors;**
7. **Intensify its efforts to develop placement services and continuing training as well as self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities;**
8. **Ensure that migrant workers, especially domestic workers, including those with disabilities are not subjected to the *kafalah* system and are fully and equally protected by the labour law;**
9. **Ensure that all migrant workers, including domestic workers, who have acquired impairment as a result of their work in the State party receive an appropriate compensation;**
10. **Be guided by article 27 of the Convention in the implementation of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

**Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)**

1. The Committee is concerned that the amount of pensions, social welfare, grants and other subsidies provided to persons with disabilities is insufficient to ensure an adequate standard of living and that there is a lack of awareness among persons with disabilities, including non-citizens, of the availability of social protection programmes and housing in the State party.
2. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
3. **Increase social welfare benefits including covering the cost of disability related expenses to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families, and take measures to increase awareness among persons with disabilities, including non-citizens, of the availability of social protection programmes and housing in the State party;**
4. **Be guided by article 28 of the Convention in the implementation of target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

53. The Committee is concerned:

1. That Article 70(3) of the Constitution and Articles 85 and 86 of Civil Code deny the right to exercise civil and political rights, including the right to vote and stand for election, to persons deemed incompetent by reason of “imbecility or insanity” or restricted in the exercise of their legal capacity;
2. That legislation on voter assistance provisions for persons with disabilities violates the secrecy of vote;
3. About the lack of information on measures taken to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in civic and political processes.

**54. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

1. **Repeal Article 70(3) of the Constitution, provisions of the Civil Code and other laws which deny the right to exercise civil and political rights on the basis of disability or restriction of legal capacity;**
2. **Ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials and polling stations and that when voting, persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice.;**
3. **Take measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in civic and political processes.**

**Participation in cultural life (art. 30)**

1. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures to include persons with disabilities, especially children, in recreational, sport and cultural activities, which remain mostly segregated.
2. **The Committee recommends that the State party set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in recreational, sport and cultural activities and society at large.**

C. Specific obligations (arts. 31-33)

Statistics and data collection (art. 31)

1. The Committee is concerned:
2. That the State party does not systematically collect disaggregated statistical data on persons with disabilities across all areas, including in respect of violence and access to justice;
3. About the lack of data collected on migrant workers with disabilities and who have acquired a disability.
4. **The Committee recommends that the State party systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated statistical data across all sectors on the demographics of persons with disabilities, including migrant workers, in order to enable it to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention, and that it be guided by article 31 of the Convention in the implementation of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

International cooperation (art. 32)

1. The Committee is concerned that the rights of persons with disabilities are not systematically considered in international development and assistance efforts by the State party.
2. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all international cooperation is fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, from the design of programs and policies, to monitoring and evaluation, and that organizations of persons with disabilities are systematically consulted by the State party and international development actors.**

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

1. The Committee is concerned:
2. About the absence of high-level mechanisms to coordinate policy on the rights of persons with disabilities;
3. That, in spite of the voluntary commitment made by the State party in the context of the universal periodic review in 2008 (see A/HRC/WG.6/15/ARE/1, para. 10), the State party has not yet established a national human rights institution.
4. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**
5. **Consider establishing a high-level focal point authority at the ministerial level to coordinate matters relating to the implementation of the Convention across all sectors and between different levels of government;**
6. **Establish without further delay a monitoring mechanism compliant with the Paris Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (see General Assembly resolution 48/134, annex) and ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities participate in its work.**

**Technical cooperation (art. 37)**

63. The Committee recommends that the State party avail itself of technical cooperation from the member organizations of the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) for the Convention for the purpose of obtaining guidance and assistance on implementing the Convention and the present concluding observations.

D. Follow-up and dissemination

64. The Committee requests that the State party, within 12 months and in accordance with article 35, paragraph 2, of the Convention, provide information on the measures taken to implement the Committee’s recommendations as set forth in paragraph (30 and 62) above.

65. The Committee requests the State party to implement the recommendations of the Committee as contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Government and Parliament, officials in relevant ministries, local authorities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies.

66. The Committee strongly encourages the State party to involve civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its periodic report.

67. The Committee requests the State party to disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and representative organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in national and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats, and to make them available on the government website on human rights.

E. Next report

68. The Committee requests the State party to submit its combined second and third periodic reports by no later than 19 April 2020, and to include therein information on the implementation of the present concluding observations. The Committee invites the State party to consider submitting the above-mentioned reports under the Committee’s simplified reporting procedure, according to which the Committee prepares a list of issues at least one year prior to the due date set for the report/combined reports of a State party. The replies of a State party to such a list of issues constitute its report.