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REFERENCE: OHCHR/TESRPRD/DESIB/HRESIS

Subject: Human Rights Council resolution 37/20 “Rights of the Child”

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and has the honour to refer to Human Rights Council resolution 37/20 on the rights of the child.

By paragraph 30 of the resolution, the Human Rights Council decided to focus its next annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child in 2019 on the theme “Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education”. It further requested the High Commissioner to prepare a report on that theme in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its fortieth session, with a view to providing information for the annual day of discussion on the rights of the child.

The Office of the High Commissioner would be grateful for any information relevant for the preparation of this report, particularly in relation to the following:

1. Ensuring access to inclusive education for children with disabilities is one key way in which they can be empowered.
 - a. Please identify laws and policies in your country intended to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in the general education system and the transition from segregated to inclusive settings.
 - b. Please identify any specific measures or actions being taken in your country to empower children with disabilities in education settings, particularly children with disabilities with psychosocial and intellectual impairments.
2. The empowerment of children with disabilities depends upon an environment in which they are fully included and supported in claiming their rights. Please identify laws, policies and good practices in your country aimed at the inclusion and empowerment of children with disabilities, including through:
 - a. Awareness-raising and capacity building on the human rights of children with disabilities, both broadly to the general population and their families, and to children with disabilities themselves.
 - b. Ensuring close consultation with and active involvement of children with disabilities in decision-making processes affecting them.

- c. Ensuring provision of support to families, support networks and care-givers to enable the participation of children with disabilities in decision-making processes according to their evolving capacities.
 - d. Ensuring participation of children with disabilities in society and interconnectedness in their communities, promoting deinstitutionalization and combating isolation and segregation.
3. Realizing the rights of children with disabilities can be particularly challenging in certain circumstances, such as conflict and humanitarian situations. If relevant to your country, what measures are in place to empower children with disabilities in such circumstances?
4. Please provide information on policies and programmes in your country aiming at respecting the participation in decision-making processes of children with disabilities according to their evolving capacities.
5. Does your country have independent accountability mechanisms to monitor the situation of children with disabilities and their access to essential services, including to inclusive education in the general system without discrimination?
6. Does your country monitor the inclusion of children with disabilities through disaggregated national data?
- a. Please provide information on how the number of children with disabilities enrolled in education is recorded in national data.
 - b. Please provide any available data on the number of children with disabilities living in institutions or care facilities in your country.

Please send inputs, not exceeding four pages, to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at registry@ohchr.org by 10 October 2018 in accessible format so it can be posted in OHCHR's website. Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Gina Bergh at gbergh@ohchr.org if you have any questions.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent and Observer Missions the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 16 August 2018

