



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 11 CRPD
(Situations of risk and humanitarian
emergencies)*

October 2022

Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

Bangladesh
China
China (Hong Kong)
Indonesia
Japan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Republic of Korea
Singapore
Hungary
Jamaica
Mexico
Switzerland
Venezuela
Djibouti
France
Estonia
Albania
Australia
Ecuador
El Salvador
Greece
India
Iraq
Kuwait
Myanmar
Cuba
Niger
Norway
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Spain
Turkey
Algeria
Malta
Philippines
Poland
South Africa
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Haiti
Nepal
Oman
Seychelles
Slovenia
Sudan
Latvia
Luxembourg
Montenegro
Morocco
Panama
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Armenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Canada
Cyprus
Honduras
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Jordan
Republic of Moldova
Bolivia
Colombia
Ethiopia
Guatemala
Italy
United Arab Emirates
Uruguay
Chile
Lithuania
Portugal
Serbia
Slovakia
Thailand
Uganda
European Union
Gabon
Kenya
Mauritius
Qatar
Ukraine
Cook Islands
Czech Republic
Dominican Republic
Germany
Mongolia
Turkmenistan
Denmark
Republic of Korea
Mexico
Sweden
Azerbaijan
Australia
Austria
El Salvador
Paraguay
Spain

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on Article 11 on Russian Federation, Brazil, Croatia, Belgium, Ecuador, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Argentina, China, Hungary, Peru and Tunisia.

Bangladesh

23. The Committee notes the vulnerability of the State party to natural disasters and is concerned about:

(a) The lack of effective inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies in the State party, particularly in the National Disaster Response Plan and the Standing Orders on Disasters, as well as a lack of appropriate policies and measures with respect to persons with disabilities in humanitarian emergencies, including evacuation, rescue, shelter, relief and post-disaster rehabilitation schemes;

(b) The fact that persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities and those belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, including Rohingya refugees, are disproportionately affected in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters and need especial protection.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreements on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13:

(a) Ensure the effective inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies in the State party, particularly in the National Disaster Response Plan and the Standing Orders on Disasters, and adopt and implement appropriate policies and measures for humanitarian emergencies, including evacuation, rescue, shelter, relief and post-disaster rehabilitation schemes, that includes all refugees;

(b) Increase humanitarian protection for persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities and those belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, including Rohingya refugees, and include them in all evacuation, rescue, shelter, relief and post-disaster rehabilitation schemes.

China

26. The Committee notes with concern the lack of inclusion of the specific needs of persons with disabilities within disaster risk reduction plans and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, as well as insufficient measures to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of such plans and strategies including in decision-making processes to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences and during the recovery period.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party, being guided by the COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance and Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19 by the OHCHR and in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and with the active participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Prioritize the provision of emergency assistance to persons with disabilities, strengthen efforts to incorporate the requirements of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including access to emergency information and alarm signals through alternative modes of communication and information;

(b) Mainstream disability in COVID-19 response and recovery plans, with a specific emphasis on ensuring equal access to mainstream health care systems for persons with disabilities, still in institutions or living independently, and protecting persons with disabilities from the effects of the pandemic, including the increased social isolation;

(c) Ensure equal participation of persons with disabilities in all measures affecting them, including the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and measures taken during the recovery period.

China (Hong Kong)

65. The Committee notes with concern the lack of inclusion of the specific needs of persons with disabilities within disaster risk reduction plans and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, as well as insufficient measures to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of such plans and strategies including in decision-making processes to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences and during the recovery period.

66. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong SAR, China, being guided by the COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance and Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19 by the OHCHR, and in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, with the active participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Prioritize the provision of emergency assistance to persons with disabilities, strengthen efforts to incorporate the requirements of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including access to emergency information and alarm signals through alternative modes of communication and information;

(b) Mainstream disability in COVID-19 response and recovery plans, with a specific emphasis on ensuring equal access to mainstream health care systems for persons with disabilities, still in institutions or living independently, and protecting persons with disabilities from the effects of the pandemic, including the increased social isolation;

(c) Ensure equal participation of persons with disabilities in all measures affecting them, including the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and measures taken during the recovery period.

Indonesia

22. The Committee is gravely concerned about the lack of information about the situation in West Papua and how the State Party is protecting and safeguarding West Papuans with disabilities in the context of ongoing armed clashes in conflict areas.

23. The Committee recommends that the State Party end the conflict in West Papua, progress passing of the Bill on Indigenous Peoples (RUU MHA), conduct an independent investigation into the situation in West Papua, including in relation to persons with disabilities, ensure unrestricted humanitarian aid and relief reaches West Papuans with disabilities, including internally displaced people with disabilities and implement protection measures to safeguard West Papuans with disabilities.

24. The Committee is concerned about the exclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons with disabilities from the narrow interpretation of the provisions of Law No. 8/2016, and their limited access to education, the health care system and other social services.

25. The Committee recommends that the State Party explicitly recognise that Law No. 8/2016 also applies to asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons and enable their access to education, the health system and other social services, including by providing accessible information about these services.

26. The Committee notes with concern the absence of a comprehensive disaster risk reduction framework, including laws, prevention and response plans, and specific protection and assistance for persons with disabilities, developed in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt, in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations a comprehensive disaster risk reduction framework, including prevention and response plans, and specific protection and assistance for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13.

28. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those in institutions and women and girls with disabilities, and that there is a lack of accessible emergency information targeting persons with disabilities.

29. The Committee, recalling the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, recommends that the State party:

(a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, including in relation to gender-appropriate accessible emergency information, equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to address the negative impact of the pandemic;

(b) Relocate persons with disabilities from institutions to community living settings with appropriate support.

Japan

25. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Limited protection under the Basic Act on Disaster Management for the rights of persons with disabilities of privacy and non-discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation;

(b) Lack of accessibility of evacuation shelters and temporary housing in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

(c) Insufficient consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate processes of disaster risk reduction and climate change, including earthquakes and nuclear plant disasters;

(d) Limited accessible information on situations of risk, disaster, and humanitarian emergencies, including accessibility of emergency alert system for persons with intellectual disabilities;

(e) Lack of implementation of the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” in the Kumamoto Earthquake, Northern Kyushu Heavy Rain Disasters, West Japan Heavy Rain Disasters and Hokkaido Eastern Ibari Earthquake;

(f) Lack of disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including access to information, vaccines, health services and other economic and social programmes, and the disproportionate impact of the pandemic for persons with disabilities who are still in institutions.

26. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Amend the Basic Act on Disaster Management to reinforce the rights of persons with disabilities to privacy and non-discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodations, and issues related to disaster prevention and reduction and situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

(b) Ensure that shelters, temporary housing and other services provided in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies are accessible and disability-inclusive, taken into account age and gender;

(c) Build resilient communities engaging the whole community, including persons with disabilities and their families into disaster prevention and reduction planning, by developing individual emergency plans and support systems based on community focal points, identifying gathering points, emergency shelters, and evacuation routes that are safe and accessible;

(d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities and their families can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate devices;

(e) Ensure that disaster risk reduction plans and strategies and policies on climate change at all levels are formulated with persons with disabilities and explicitly respond to their

specific needs in all situations of risk, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

(f) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines, health services and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic, and adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

18. The Committee is concerned about the:

(a) Absence of reference to the specific requirements of persons with disabilities in legislation and policies, including the Law No.71 on Disaster Management and the National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan;

(b) Lack of specific protocols for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, and barriers to guarantee reasonable accommodation and accessibility to information, evacuation centers, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, and community needs assessments;

(c) Lack of consultation of organizations of persons with disabilities in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies;

(d) The disproportionate effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities, in particular, persons who are in institutions, and at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and healthcare services.

19. Recalling the guidance issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on COVID-19 and the rights of persons with disabilities, the Secretary-General's policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and with the active participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that national legislation, policies and programmes that address situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies are disability-inclusive, and take into account the requirements of persons with disabilities, including those belonging to ethnic and religious groups and victims of unexploded ordnance;

(b) Develop protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, providing clarity of the specific requirements of persons with disabilities; and ensure that reasonable accommodation and accessibility to information, evacuation centers, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments, and assistive devices are made accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas;

(c) Ensure the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities with a gender-balanced participation in the design and implementation of legislation and policies relating to climate change and disaster risk reduction and management, including the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee;

(d) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic.

Republic of Korea

23. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the Framework Act on the Management of Disasters and Safety of 2018 lacks disaster risk reduction plans, policies and protocols for the prevention and reduction of risks for persons with disabilities;

(b) At the low level of involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 and climate change adaptation and Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific at the national level and in its reporting process.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Accelerate adoption of inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans to all persons with disabilities, particularly children, women, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with sensory impairments;

(b) Closely consult persons with disabilities through their representative organizations on the design and implementation of all disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans at the national and local levels and at all stages of the process, and adopt a comprehensive strategy, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13.

25. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those who are still in institutions, and at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and devices.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;

(b) Adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community;

(c) Involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages of developing and implementing COVID-19 response and recovery plans;

(d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate devices.

Singapore

21. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the lack of specific and comprehensive disaster risk reduction plans, policies and protocols for the prevention and reduction of risks for persons with disabilities;

(b) That persons with disabilities are not sufficiently involved in disaster risk reduction plans in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 and climate change adaptation and Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Accelerate the adoption of inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans for all persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities and women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, on the design and implementation of all disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans at the national and district levels and at all stages of the process, and adopt a comprehensive strategy, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

23. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including by sexual violence and abuse in particular

persons with disabilities in institutions, and about the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and support measures.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, instructed by the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic, and protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities from sexual violence and abuse;

(b) Adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community, in accordance with the Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies;

(c) Closely involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities, at all stages of the development and implementation of COVID-19 response and recovery plans;

(d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate electronic devices.

Hungary

22. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Neither the Fundamental Law, the Disaster Protection Act, nor their respective protocols provide for specific measures in relation to the safety of persons with disabilities and various types of impairments in situations of risk and emergencies arising from conflict, natural disasters or refugee and migration crises;

(b) Persons with disabilities placed in residential institutions and psychiatric settings, and persons with disabilities living independently have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, facing greater risks of contracting COVID-19, including due to lack of access to the general health system and social isolation;

(c) Persons with disabilities have had limited participation in decision-making processes to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences and during the recovery period.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, following the guidance issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on COVID-19 and the rights of persons with disabilities and the United Nations policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19, and in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and with the active participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Revise its legislation, protocols, plans and measures in relation to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies arising from conflict, natural disasters or refugee and migration crises by incorporating the requirements of all persons with disabilities in such situations, including access to emergency information and alarm signals through alternative modes of communication and information;

(b) Mainstream disability in COVID-19 response and recovery plans, with a specific emphasis on ensuring equal access to mainstream health-care systems for persons with disabilities, still in institutions or living independently, and safeguarding persons with disabilities from the effects of the pandemic, including increased social isolation;

(c) Ensure equal participation of persons with disabilities in all measures affecting them, including the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and measures taken during the recovery period.

Jamaica

20. The Committee notes the vulnerability of the State party to natural disasters and is concerned that persons with disabilities are not sufficiently involved in disaster risk reduction

plans at the national and local levels. While noting that the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management includes persons with disabilities where there is an imminent hazard, the Committee is concerned at the lack of unified measures taken to establish an emergency notification system that is accessible for all persons with disabilities regardless of the type of impairment.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Improve the accessibility of warning information for persons with all types of impairment, particularly for persons with visual and hearing impairments and those with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Closely consult persons with disabilities through their representative organizations on the design and implementation of all disaster risk reduction plans at the national and local levels and at all stages of the process, and adopt a comprehensive strategy, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13;

(c) Continue to ensure that the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management adequately addresses the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities in disaster risk responses.

22. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those who are still in institutions, and at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and devices.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;

(b) Adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community;

(c) Involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages of developing and implementing COVID-19 response and recovery plans;

(d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate devices.

Mexico

31. The Committee notes a lack of specific protocols for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop specific protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, that are adapted to the specific situations of each state, providing clarity of the whereabouts of persons with disabilities and their specific requirements;

(b) Design and disseminate, in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video transcription, in all of the State party's official languages, including those used by the indigenous communities, information on early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergency, protection systems, and institutional and community crisis response networks, and identify adequate places of refuge and shelters accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas;

(c) Train all civil defence staff in addressing issues of security and protection for persons with disabilities in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

33. The Committee notes with concern the lack of a disability-inclusive response to the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in institutions. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of data on the impact of the pandemic on persons with disabilities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party follow the guidance issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on COVID-19 and the rights of persons with disabilities and the Secretary-General's policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19, and that it:

(a) Adopt a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic for persons with disabilities by implementing emergency deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, preventing their abandonment in their homes and providing them with the necessary support to live in the community in safe conditions;

(b) Implement support programmes for persons with disabilities to address the aggravated consequences of the pandemic, considering specific measures for women with disabilities regarding economic empowerment, access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health rights, and provision of information in accessible formats, as well as measures for persons with disabilities living in institutions;

(c) Compile data on infections, illness and death of persons with disabilities as a result of SARS-CoV-2, disaggregated by type of impairment, gender, residence in rural and urban areas and socioeconomic status;

(d) Closely consult with and involve persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, and their representative organizations at all stages of the development and implementation of COVID-19 response and recovery plans, and in the preparation of such plans for future crises.

Switzerland

23. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of inclusion of the specific needs of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction plans and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and the insufficient measures to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of such plans and strategies;

(b) The lack of an action plan to implement the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;

(c) The lack of a proactive response to the specific needs of persons with disabilities in regard to COVID-19, including the lack of information for the public, transport authorities and the media regarding mask exemptions, which has resulted in the constant vilification of autistic persons with exemptions.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that disaster risk reduction plans and strategies at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels are formulated with persons with disabilities and explicitly respond to their specific needs in all situations of risk, in accordance with the Convention and with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

(b) Adopt an action plan to implement the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action with clear and measurable objectives and indicators, including for disaster risk reduction, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, and in accordance with the Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action issued by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

(c) Ensure disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery plans, strengthen cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and ensure that information on pandemic measures, including mask exemptions, is provided to the public, the relevant authorities and the media.

Venezuela

20. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of contingency plans for emergencies of any kind that take into account persons with disabilities, as was observed during the pandemic;
- (b) The situation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, which has a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take steps, based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, article 11 of the Convention and the situations that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that prevention and risk-reduction protocols are validated by persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, and allocate a specific budget and assign trained staff for that purpose;**
- (b) Apply follow-up protocols to provide ongoing support to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities transiting through the State party.**

Djibouti

17. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The need to align the Act no. 140/AN/06/5ème on the national policy for risk and disaster management with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction to ensure inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans to support and protect persons with disabilities, particularly children and women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with sensory impairments, in the situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;
- (b) The lack of information on the effects of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities during general lockdowns and confinement measures, particularly persons with disabilities living in poverty and older persons with disabilities, and on the access of persons with disabilities to vaccine and other economic and social programmes, on an equal basis with others;
- (c) The absence of consultation process with organizations of persons with disabilities regarding the development and implementation of immediate and long-term responses to the pandemic.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the Act No. 140/AN/06/5ème on the national policy for risk and disaster management to align it with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and accelerate the adoption of inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans to persons with disabilities, particularly children and women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with sensory impairments;**
- (b) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, to ensure equal access of persons with disabilities to vaccines and economic and social programmes, particularly for persons with disabilities living in poverty and older persons with disabilities.**

France

23. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of disability-inclusive response to the disproportional impact of COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities due to the greater risks of contracting COVID-19 in institutions;
- (b) The lack of accommodations for persons with disabilities in the context of general containment measures against COVID-19, and information about the refusal of admission to hospitals of persons with disabilities;
- (c) That simultaneous visual and vocal alarm systems in public environments and services has yet to be provided;
- (d) The absence of emergency accommodations for persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, living in refugee or asylum seeker camps, or those of Roma ethnic minority.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, being guided by the COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance and Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19 by the OHCHR:

(a) Ensure the disability-inclusive response to the disproportional impact of COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities by implementing emergency deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, preventing abandonment at homes, and provide them with necessary support to live in the community in safe conditions;

(b) Review the implementation of measures to contain the pandemic and establish accommodations in order to ensure appropriate response to persons with disabilities, including by providing assistance at home, the use of transparent masks for supporting deaf persons or support in online working environments;

(c) Ensure accessibility of information about the pandemic for all persons with disabilities, including through sign language, reproduction of visual and vocal alarm systems;

(d) Provide persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, living in refugee or asylum seeker camps, Roma persons with disabilities with access to emergency accommodations and humanitarian assistance in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters.

Estonia

21. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That persons with disabilities still in institutions, including psychiatric settings have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, facing greater risks of contracting COVID-19 and further isolation in the context of general lockdowns and confinement measures;

(b) That organizations of persons with disabilities have yet to be consulted with respect to the immediate and long-term responses to the pandemic;

(c) Barriers for persons with disabilities, in accessing emergency information and devices, such as mobile applications and fire alarms, and the helpline 112.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, be guided by the COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance and Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19 by the OHCHR, ensure:

(a) Mainstreaming disability in the COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including equal access to vaccines, and other economic, or social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;

(b) Adopt measures to undertake emergency deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, providing them appropriate support to live in the community;

(c) The involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all stages of the COVID-19 response and recovery;

(d) Access to information in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, through alternative modes of communication and information, and full accessibility to the emergency number 112 to all persons with disabilities.

Albania

21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction and management strategies, as well as the lack of provision of accessible information for persons with disabilities on situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement an accessible and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations of risk in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, including through hotlines, a text message-warning application, and manuals in sign language, Braille and Easy

Read, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and that it require all public services to develop plans for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in regular, close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including at the local level.

Australia

21. The Committee, recognizing that the effects of climate change contribute to exacerbating inequality and vulnerability among persons with disabilities, remains concerned about the lack of:

(a) Nationally consistent emergency management standards that ensure access to disability-specific and disability-responsive support during emergencies;

(b) A mechanism for engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 at the national level and in its reporting process.

22. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation on the matter (CRPD/C/AUS/CO/1, para. 23) and recommends that the State party, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, establish a fully accessible and inclusive mechanism to engage with persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.

Ecuador

23. The Committee is concerned that the Inclusive Risk Management Strategy still lacks a protocol for the prevention and reduction of risks for persons with disabilities.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party put in place, without delay, a protocol for the prevention and reduction of risks for persons with disabilities that has been validated by persons with disabilities through their representative organizations. It further recommends that the State party earmark a specific budget allocation for that purpose.

El Salvador

22. The Committee is concerned that only a few persons with disabilities, through their organizations, contributed to the Road Map for Inclusion, Protection and Attention to Persons with Disabilities in Emergencies and Disasters. Taking into consideration the fact that the State party is at risk from natural hazards, the Committee is also concerned that no budget has been allocated for the implementation of the road map and of the Strategic Plan of Action scheduled for 2020.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with persons with disabilities:

(a) **Ensure that budget is allocated for implementation of the road map and of the Strategic Plan of Action scheduled for 2020, and establish a contingency budget for humanitarian emergencies and disasters;**

(b) **Implement the Strategic Plan of Action and monitor the accessibility of the shelters that are usually set up in emergencies;**

(c) **Ensure that the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities are taken into consideration, and that they are provided with information in accessible formats.**

Greece

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of standards governing the administration and services provided for persons with disabilities in general situations of risk and in refugee and asylum processes, and the compliance of the current risk management practices with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

(b) The insufficient measures taken to identify asylum seekers with disabilities, refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities who are in refugee-like situations who are arriving in

the State party, to ensure their access to health care, adequate accommodation, basic facilities, security and safety, and to take specific measures and provide for individualized support, such as personal assistance, particularly for women and children with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt effective asylum and refugee processes and develop a comprehensive strategy and protocols for general emergency risk situations, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. It also recommends that the State party render reception facilities accessible and provide the necessary health-care services, in line with the Committee’s general comment No. 2, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**
- (b) Immediately ensure that the vulnerability assessment of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, who are refugees, asylum seekers and persons in refugee-like situations be carried out systematically upon their arrival in the State party by trained personnel and on the basis of the human rights model of disability and of specific guidelines for the identification of persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, who are refugees, asylum seekers and persons in refugee-like situations, have access to social protection, assistive technologies, information and adequate services, particularly safe shelter, sanitation and medical care through, inter alia, the provision of individualized support; immediately guarantee that conditions in reception facilities respect the dignity of persons with disabilities, particularly children, who are refugees, asylum seekers or persons in refugee-like situations; and provide for their regular transfer to the mainland.**

India

24. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of policies regarding consultation of organizations of persons with disabilities in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating disaster risk reduction strategies;
- (b) The information gaps on the number of internally displaced persons with disabilities, particularly those living outside formal camps or resettlement areas, and the absence of humanitarian assessments to ensure appropriate and disability-inclusive emergency responses, including for persons at a higher risk of displacement;
- (c) The lack of information about persons with disabilities in Jammu and Kashmir and strategies to ensure appropriate humanitarian assistance.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement:

- (a) Ensure the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the disaster risk reduction strategy and/or national disaster management plan or guidelines, ensuring the implementation of measures for accessibility and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in situations of risk;**
- (b) Develop early warning systems in situations of risk that are accessible for all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure a human rights-based response for internally displaced persons with disabilities, particularly those who have been displaced for prolonged periods, in all situations of risk, including in relation to violence and armed conflict, natural disasters or the exploitation of natural resources, and adopt policies to protect the rights of internally displaced persons with disabilities, ensuring that they are provided with assistance and accessible and safe shelters;**
- (d) Adopt measures to assess the situation of persons with disabilities in Jammu and Kashmir and ensure their access to assistance and community basic services, such as health and education, and consider endorsing the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.**

Iraq

21. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The disproportionate effect that armed conflict, other acts of violence committed against civilian populations and displacement in the State party have had on persons with disabilities and about the increase in the number of persons with disabilities due to conflict-related injuries and the lack of medical and other basic services, particularly in the Kurdistan Region;
- (b) The absence of a reference to the need for individualized supports for persons with disabilities during emergencies in Law No. 44 (2013) on civil defence and in Law No. 38 (2013), as well as in policies and programmes, including the national policy for managing the file on internally displaced persons in Iraq endorsed by the Council of Ministers in its decision No. 414 (2015).

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Allocate the human, technical and financial resources necessary to provide services, including habilitation and rehabilitation services, mental health services, sanitation, safe spaces, education and vocational training, to persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, who are victims of violence in the context of armed conflict or who are internally displaced, migrants or refugees, including measures to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of persons with disabilities, and to enforce Law No. 57 (2015) on victims of terrorism;**
- (b) In compliance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, ensure that national legislation, policies and programmes that address situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies are disability-inclusive, including by making continued efforts to render early warning and public warning systems accessible to persons with disabilities.**

Kuwait

22. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a specific strategy, protocols and tools to prevent, protect, assist and involve persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;
- (b) The lack of information on how humanitarian aid, including evacuation systems, transport, shelters and assistive devices, is made accessible to persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) With the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, design and enact a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;**
- (b) Adopt measures to ensure that information on evacuation systems, transport, shelters and assistive devices in situations of risk and emergency is provided to persons with disabilities in accessible formats.**

Myanmar

21. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The rights and the specific requirements of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies are not sufficiently taken into account in the Natural Disaster Management Law or the Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction, and there is a lack of protocols, plans and measures with respect to persons with disabilities in these situations;
- (b) Persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities and those belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, face heightened risks in areas affected by conflict and humanitarian emergencies, including where stateless, internally displaced and returnee populations are resident or hosted in Northern Rakhine, Shan, and Kachin States.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Design and adopt specific legislation, protocols, plans and measures for the protection and safety of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and in humanitarian**

emergencies, which take into account the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen the humanitarian protection for persons with disabilities affected by conflict and humanitarian emergencies, including those belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, particularly in Northern Rakhine, Shan, and Kachin States.

Cuba

23. The Committee is concerned about the lack of awareness of persons with disabilities on the existence and nature of protocols on assistance for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, the limited dissemination of handbooks and guides on assisting persons with disabilities in potential disaster situations, and the lack of information in accessible means and formats of communication.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop and disseminate widely a national plan on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies that provides for assistance for all persons with disabilities that takes into account their requirements, through specific and cross-cutting approaches, and a protocol on risk mitigation for persons with disabilities in situations of risk through accessible early-warning systems, including in sign language, Easy Read and Braille, focusing in particular on persons living in rural areas, and continue to provide training to first responders;

(b) Include persons with disabilities in all stages of disaster management with a view to ensuring that their requirements and rights are respected.

Niger

17. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a co-ordinating body for risks and national disasters that adequately incorporates persons with disabilities. It is concerned about the lack of information on how humanitarian aid is made accessible to persons with disabilities, including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in designing the National Emergency Management System Plan, and adopt a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy that is fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

Norway

17. The Committee is concerned about the disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and emergencies, and about the absence of comprehensive policies related to disaster risk reduction that include persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of national disaster risk reduction strategies.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, through active consultations with representative organisations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Develop an emergency information and warning system that is fully available, free and accessible, throughout the State party for all persons with disabilities regardless of impairment;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategy that guarantees the accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all situations of risk.

Rwanda

21. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a disability perspective in the general strategy, plan, protocols and tools in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;
- (b) The lack of civil protection personnel with knowledge and skills to assist persons with disabilities in disaster risk situations;
- (c) The inaccessibility of information regarding disaster risk reduction and response for persons with disabilities, in particular persons who are deaf, blind, deaf-blind and persons with intellectual disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the national strategy, plan, protocols and tools to deal with situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, and that through their representative organizations, they are included in structures responsible for disaster preparedness, management and recovery;**
- (b) Train and equip emergency response teams with the knowledge and skills to assist persons with disabilities in disaster risk situations;**
- (c) Put into place measures to ensure that information on disaster risk reduction and response is accessible to all persons with disabilities, including persons who are deaf, blind, deaf-blind and persons with intellectual disabilities.**

Saudi Arabia

19. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The precarious situation of refugees and asylum-seeking persons with disabilities, resulting from the State party's military action in the region;
- (b) Insufficient measures taken to guarantee that its preparedness, protection and disaster relief measures, shelters and evacuation routes, including corresponding information material, are accessible to persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee, recalling that if the State party exercises effective control over individuals in another jurisdiction (CCPR/C/96/D/1539/2006, para 14.2), or if it is a link in the causal chain that would make possible violations in another jurisdiction, the guarantees of the Convention apply, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the respect of all the rights of persons with disabilities in the exercise of its powers in other jurisdictions, including in armed conflict, and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need (see A/HRC/33/38, paras. 71 (b) and (d));**
- (b) Adopt and implement a fully inclusive and accessible emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities at risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and guarantee the provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities on emergency-related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.**

Senegal

19. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a national plan for disaster risk reduction to support persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons who are blind or visually impaired;
- (b) The lack of access to information in accessible formats including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transportation and available shelters.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the inclusion, meaningful consultation and effective participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the Civil Defence Directorate and in designing the National Emergency Management System Plan;**
- (b) Adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030);**

(c) Adopt measures to ensure the provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, especially for persons who are deaf, and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, women and children with disabilities, on the accessibility and the inclusion of such persons in humanitarian aid, including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.

Spain

20. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not sufficiently take into account the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and through the active participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, design and adopt specific legislation, protocols, plans and measures for the protection and rescue of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, which take into account the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities.

Turkey

23. The Committee is concerned about the absence of information on a comprehensive strategy and plan of action that ensures inclusion and accessibility of disaster risk reduction measures. It is also concerned about the absence of periodic risk assessments and disaggregated data collection that allows the State party to identify and address the specific risks that persons with disabilities face in armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national strategy and protocols on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian emergencies, inclusive of persons with disabilities, in line with the criteria indicated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction 2015-2030;

(b) Ensure that the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency involves organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of risk assessments, plans for disaster risk reduction and data collection efforts;

(c) Ensure continuous human, financial and technical resources for post-emergency rehabilitation, resettlement, reconstruction, and rebuilding processes, which are accessible and responsive to the specific requirements of persons with disabilities.

Vanuatu

20. The Committee notes the vulnerability of the State party to natural disasters and is concerned that persons with disabilities are not sufficiently involved in disaster risk reduction plans at national, provincial and community level. It is also concerned that some persons with disabilities were still left behind during the evacuation from Ambae Island in 2018 and that there is a lack of unified measures taken for emergency notification system, which are accessible for persons with disabilities regardless of types of impairment.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Improve the accessibility of warning information for all different types of impairments, particularly for persons with visual and hearing impairment and those with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Consult closely with persons with disabilities through their organizations in the design and implementation of all disaster risk reduction plans at the national, provincial and community level and adopt a comprehensive strategy, which incorporates recommendations made by the joint study into the Cyclone Pam response from the perspective of persons with disabilities in 2016 and 2017, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and Goals 11 and 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Continue ensuring that clusters under the National Disaster Management Office, including the Gender Protection Cluster, adequately address the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities in disaster risk responses.

Algeria

22. The Committee is concerned at the absence of measures to respond to the specific requirements of refugees with disabilities in the context of humanitarian crises.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt, within a clear timeline, a risk and emergency strategy and ensure that disability issues are integrated into the strategy, in compliance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Bulgaria

27. The Committee notes with concern that deaf and hard of hearing persons, blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities face challenges in accessing information on situations of risk across the State party, including in remote and rural areas. It is also concerned about the lack of information in sign language, electronic format, Braille, printed and Easy Read about early warning systems.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to information on situations of risk, including in sign language, electronic format, Braille, and Easy Read across the State party, including in remote and rural areas.

Malta

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of disaster risk reduction, such as the General Emergency Plan, the regional evacuation plan, and of the development of new technologies and services. It is also concerned that some reception centres for asylum seekers and the Office of the Refugee Commissioner are not accessible for persons with disabilities and that information for persons with disabilities, particularly asylum seekers, is lacking in accessible formats.

18. The Committee recommends in line with the Sendai Framework For Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities are included in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of disaster risk reduction. It further calls on the State party to improve the access to facilities and information for asylum seekers with disabilities.

Philippines

22. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on measures taken to implement the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act and the coordination mechanisms by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council with respect to persons with disabilities in situations of risk. It is also concerned about the information that during the 2017 Battle of Marawi in Lanao del Sur province, many women, at-risk groups such as children, persons with disabilities were left in the center of gunfire and chaos causing massive internal displacement.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt an effective mechanism in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in order to have an accessible communication strategy (e.g. hotlines, a text message-warning application, general manuals in sign language and Braille, etc.) and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations risk;

(b) Ensure that disaster risk reduction strategies are inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities, and comply with the commitments of the Chapter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, and the 2016 Humanitarian Summit;

(c) Enact legislation and enforce measures requiring all public services to develop individual and local plans for the safe evacuation of persons with disabilities during situations of risk,

in close consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

Poland

17. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not sufficiently include specific requirements of persons with disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, through active consultations with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, design and adopt specific regulations, plans and measures for the protection and rescue of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

South Africa

20. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a national plan for disaster risk reduction to support persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons who are blind or visually impaired. It is also concerned about the lack of access to information in appropriate formats including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transportation and shelters.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national plan to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and to ensure universal accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities at all levels of disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015);

(b) Design and disseminate information in accessible formats to all persons with disabilities, in all of the State party's official languages, about early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

21. The Committee is concerned about:

22. The lack of incorporation of disability or accessibility and support to people with disabilities in the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, and the lack of emergency number in accessible formats, accessible equipment and provision for emergency and rescue trainings for people with disabilities.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Revise its legislation, policies and guidelines to ensure that Disaster Risk Reduction management and humanitarian aid is accessible and inclusive for persons with disability;

(b) Provide emergency number in accessible formats, equipment and provision for emergency and rescue trainings for people with disabilities.

Haiti

20. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The existing disaster risk reduction national strategic plan does not include a disability perspective for the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including disasters and that the State party relies on ad-hoc mobilization efforts by volunteers to reach out to persons with disabilities in cases of natural disasters;

(b) Organizations of persons with disabilities were not engaged in the formulation of the disaster risk reduction national strategic plan;

(c) Persons with disabilities do not have equal access to humanitarian and emergency services including the distribution of humanitarian assistance, and that shelters, centres and facilities are often inaccessible.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

(a) Expedite the revision of the disaster risk reduction national strategic plan with clear guidance and accessible protocols that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, and take them into consideration, in all situations of risk, in accordance with the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and raise awareness, including through public media campaigns about such protocols in case of natural disasters;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities are effectively engaged in the design and implementation of measures for their protection and safety in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

(c) Take measures to improve the accessibility of humanitarian and emergency services, including distribution of assistance, shelters and facilities.

Nepal

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific protective measures and support for persons with disabilities targeting specifically vulnerable groups who were disproportionately affected (women, people with leprosy, children and indigenous peoples) by the 2015 earthquake.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt an effective mechanism in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in order to have an accessible communication strategy (e.g. hotlines, a text message-warning application, general manuals in sign language and Braille, etc.), and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations of disaster and risk. The Committee also recommends that the State party require all public services to develop individual and local plans for the safe evacuation of persons with disabilities in consultations with them through their representative organizations. In this regard, the State party should ensure that post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts follow a human rights based approach in order to effectively protect all persons with disabilities.

Oman

23. The Committee is concerned that the National Emergency Management System Plan does not adequately incorporate persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on how humanitarian aid is made accessible to persons with disabilities, including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in designing the National Emergency Management System Plan, and adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy that is fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure the provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, especially for women and children, and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and also for the deaf, on the accessibility and inclusion of such persons in humanitarian aid, including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.

Seychelles

16. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not sufficiently consider the specific requirements of persons with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, through active consultations with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, design and adopt specific regulations, plans and measures for the protection of persons with disabilities in situations

of risk and emergency, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Slovenia

16. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not sufficiently consider the specific requirements of persons with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, through active consultations with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, design and adopt specific regulations, plans and measures for the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and emergency, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Sudan

21. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of a national strategy for the protection of persons with disabilities in emergency and humanitarian situations;

(b) The limited support provided to persons with disabilities who are internally displaced, refugees or asylum seekers.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a disaster risk reduction strategy that is accessible and inclusive of persons with disabilities, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and ensure that humanitarian actors are trained in the human rights-based approach to disability;

(b) To strengthen its efforts to provide adequate support to persons with disabilities who are internally displaced, refugees or asylum seekers.

Latvia

18. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific plans, prepared in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, on prevention, protection and assistance for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a disaster risk reduction and management plan that ensures accessibility and the inclusion of all persons with disabilities, providing for a single point of contact in situations of emergency and disasters, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Luxembourg

22. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about training for personnel of emergency services on the rights of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on access to appropriate processing facilities and mental health support, including counselling, for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities arriving in the State party, especially those with psychosocial disabilities.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party train emergency services personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party ensure that asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities arriving in the State party have access to facilities on an equal basis with others, beyond physical accessibility, and that persons with psychosocial disabilities have access to appropriate support and rehabilitation.

Montenegro

22. The Committee is concerned about the lack of any comprehensive strategy, protocols or standards, and about the lack of regular training of relevant professionals and in public buildings to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to help in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. It is also concerned about the lack of equal access to information,

such as accessible and adapted manuals, including guidelines in line with its general comment No. 2.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt an effective mechanism in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in order to have an accessible and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations of risk (including, for example, hotlines, a text message warning application, general manuals in sign language and Braille), and to require all public services to develop individual and local plans for the safe evacuation of persons with disabilities, in consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including at the local level.

Morocco

24. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a national strategy for the protection of persons with disabilities from risk situations, including natural disasters, and the lack of information on the accessibility of humanitarian and emergency services for persons with disabilities.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a disaster risk reduction strategy that provides for accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Panama

28. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a protocol on assistance for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and the limited dissemination of handbooks and guides on assisting persons with disabilities in potential disaster situations.

29. In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop, adopt and disseminate widely a national plan on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies that provides for priority assistance for all persons with disabilities, through specific and cross-cutting approaches, and a protocol on risk mitigation for persons with disabilities in situations of risk through accessible early-warning systems, including in sign language, Easy Read and Braille, focusing in particular on persons living in rural areas and indigenous regions, and continue to develop the road map and provide training to first responders;

(b) Incorporate a disability perspective in its policies and programmes on climate change;

(c) Include persons with disabilities in all stages of disaster management with a view to ensuring that their needs and rights are respected.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

28. The Committee is concerned about the impact on persons with disabilities in situations of emergencies, including floods and fire, and the absence of comprehensive policies related to disaster risk reduction that include persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of disaster risk reduction.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive disaster risk reduction plan and strategies that provide for accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(b) Mainstream disability in all humanitarian aid channels and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in setting priorities on aid distribution in the context of risk and humanitarian emergencies, paying attention to the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;

(c) Develop information and warning systems in humanitarian emergencies that are accessible for all persons with disabilities;

(d) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities participate in resilience teams at the local level and have an active role in advising on and formulating policies and guidelines regarding disaster preparedness and planning.

Armenia

17. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not take the requirements of persons with disabilities into consideration.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party include a disability perspective in all legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and take measures in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

20. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive strategy for protocols to support persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. In line with its general comment No. 2 (2014), it is especially concerned about the lack of equal access to information in appropriate formats.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt an effective system in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in order to have an accessible (e.g. through hotlines, a text message-warning application, general manuals in sign language and in Braille) and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations of risk, and that it require all public services to develop plans for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including at the local level.

Canada

25. The Committee takes note of several policy measures at the federal, provincial and territorial levels that provide for comprehensive plans on preparedness and disaster risk management and reduction and that are inclusive of disability requirements. However, the Committee notes with concern the absence of disaggregated information about the situation of asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities in the State party.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Conduct research on the effective access of asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities to the protection of their rights under the Convention;**
- (b) Ensure the provision of accessible information, including easy-read versions of official documents, during asylum-seeking processes and with respect to social protection and rehabilitation programmes for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities;**
- (c) Set up programmes to build capacity among international cooperation and assistance officials with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Consider endorsing the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.**

Cyprus

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of sufficient measures guaranteeing full inclusion of persons with disabilities in emergency responses, including access to the telephone-based emergency service "112" for persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and sensory disabilities.

32. The Committee recommends that the Office of the Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulations provide sufficient means of access to the telephone-based emergency service "112" in order for it to be made fully accessible to all persons with disabilities in emergency situations, as required by European Union Directive 2009/136/EC.

Honduras

25. El Comité observa con preocupación que si bien existen las entidades responsables de coordinar y dirigir las situaciones de riesgo y emergencias humanitarias no se incluye un protocolo especial para mitigar los riesgos de personas con discapacidad en situaciones de riesgo.

26. El Comité recomienda que el Sistema Nacional de Riesgos incorpore un protocolo específico para mitigar los riesgos de personas con discapacidad en situaciones de riesgo con unas alertas tempranas accesibles que incluyan lengua de señas y sistema braille prestando especial atención a las que viven en zonas rurales y remotas. Asimismo, le recomienda incorporar la discapacidad en sus políticas y programas sobre cambio climático.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

24. The Committee takes note of the State party information about its demining program. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of appropriate preparedness and information about risk reduction strategies during emergencies, in formats accessible to persons with disabilities, and information about accessibility of shelters and evacuation routes; and

(b) The absence of information on the situation of refugee persons with disabilities and on how they are included in disaster risk reduction strategies.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that the disaster risk reduction plan and strategies provides for accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and

(b) Take measures to facilitate the protection of persons with disabilities in refugee camps, such as accessible shelters, water and sanitation, education and health, evacuation during emergencies and rehabilitation.

Jordan

23. The Committee notes that the State party is host to a significant number of refugees. It is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive, accessible and disability-inclusive disaster risk management strategy. It is also concerned that deaf persons are limited to using a certain type of mobile telephone when accessing the emergency hotline service.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) in adopting and implementing a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols that are fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, including refugees with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the emergency hotline service be made accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly deaf persons, via the independent technologies platform.

Republic of Moldova

22. The Committee is concerned that legislation and plans on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including Law No. 1491 on humanitarian aid, does not take the requirements of persons with disabilities into consideration in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party include a disability perspective in all legislation and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and that it adopt measures in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Bolivia

25. The Committee is concerned that accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction is insufficient, and that there are no response protocols in this regard.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, in the light of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, for the inclusion of accessibility in infrastructure and evacuation routes, and for the provision of information on disaster risk reduction, including in Braille and sign language and using alternative modes and formats of communication.

Colombia

26. The Committee notes with concern the limited participation of persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of risk reduction strategies and the lack of information accessibility.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, in the light of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; for the inclusion of accessibility in infrastructure and evacuation routes; and for the provision of information on disaster risk reduction, including in Braille and sign language and using alternative modes and formats of communication.

28. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The fact that during the peace negotiations between the Government of the State party and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP), the disability perspective has not been considered a priority in the context of the rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims with disabilities;

(b) The lack of accessibility of the Central Register of Victims and the shortage of reliable information and statistics on victims with disabilities;

(c) The large number of victims of anti-personnel mines and the limited efforts to ensure their full rehabilitation and community reintegration;

(d) The lack of accessibility and of the disability perspective in victim reparation programmes, such as that operated by the Land Restitution Unit, and the requirement of judicial interdiction in order to benefit from compensation as victims.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party include the disability perspective in all victim reparation and assistance programmes, in coordination with the National Disability System and in consultation with victims with disabilities and the organizations representing them, in particular by:

(a) **Adopting rehabilitation and social inclusion policies for persons with disabilities who are victims of the armed conflict, including measures for their rehabilitation and community reintegration with a gender approach, aimed specifically at persons who have developed psychosocial disabilities as a consequence of the armed conflict;**

(b) **Ensuring the accessibility of all procedures related to the Central Register of Victims, especially in rural areas and the most remote locations;**

(c) **Eliminating the interdiction requirement for victims of the armed conflict to benefit from reparation and support programmes.**

Ethiopia

23. The Committee is concerned at the absence of measures to tackle humanitarian crises, specifically relating to persons with disabilities and their specific requirements.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt, within a clear timeline, a risk and emergency strategy and ensure that disability issues are integrated into the strategy, in compliance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Guatemala

29. The Committee is concerned that the State party's action plans and national policy on preparedness and response in the event of humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters do not take into account the needs of persons with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that its action plans and national policy on preparedness and response in the event of humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters are inclusive and accessible to all persons with disabilities, focusing in particular on those living in rural and remote areas. It also recommends mainstreaming disability in its climate change policies and programmes, taking into consideration the outcomes of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 with regard to persons with disabilities, the outcome document of the Climate Summit and the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

Italy

25. The Committee is concerned about the challenges encountered by refugees, migrants and asylum seekers with disabilities arriving in the State party, especially those with psychosocial disabilities, in accessing appropriate processing facilities and mental health support, including counselling.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all persons with disabilities arriving in the State party are able to access facilities on an equal basis with others and that those with psychosocial disabilities are given appropriate support and rehabilitation through strengthened systems. It also recommends that the State party ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and endorse the 2016 Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

United Arab Emirates

21. 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 concerned, however:

(a) That, apart from those guidelines, there are no strategies, protocols or tools to prevent, protect, inform, assist and involve persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

(b) About the lack of detailed information regarding the training to be provided to all staff involved in the evacuation of persons with disabilities during emergencies.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols that are fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

(b) Regularly provide basic training to persons charged with evacuating persons with disabilities in the event of an emergency.

Uruguay

23. Al Comité le preocupa que el Sistema Nacional de Emergencia, Ley número 18621, no cuente con protocolos específicos para el tratamiento de personas con discapacidad en situación de emergencia nacional. También le preocupa la poca divulgación de los manuales y guías prácticas para el apoyo a las personas con discapacidad en situaciones de riesgo de desastres, el desconocimiento del personal de protección civil acerca de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad y la poca accesibilidad en vías de evacuación a nivel nacional.

24. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que proporcione capacitación permanente sobre los derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad al personal de protección civil. Dicha formación deberá incluir la divulgación de los instrumentos elaborados para la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad en las estrategias para la reducción de riesgos de desastres, y la inclusión de la accesibilidad en infraestructura y las rutas de evacuación.

Chile

21. Al Comité le preocupa la poca divulgación de los manuales y guías prácticas para el apoyo a las personas con discapacidad en situaciones de riesgo de desastres, el desconocimiento

del personal de protección civil acerca de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad y la poca accesibilidad en vías de evacuación a nivel nacional. Asimismo, le preocupa la falta de accesibilidad de los servicios e información relacionada con la reducción de riesgos de desastres para las personas con discapacidad.

22. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que capacite de manera permanente al personal de protección civil en materia de derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad. Dicha formación deberá incluir la divulgación de los instrumentos elaborados para la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad en las estrategias para la reducción de riesgos de desastres, la provisión de servicios digitales de comunicación, la inclusión de la accesibilidad en infraestructura y las rutas de evacuación, así como la información relacionada con la reducción de los riesgos de desastres. También le recomienda que preste especial atención a la accesibilidad a la información, incluido el Braille, la lengua de señas y los medios y formatos alternativos de comunicación, y deberá tener en cuenta el Marco de Sendai para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres.

Lithuania

23. The Committee notes with concern that the requirements of persons with disabilities, especially those who are deaf, deaf blind or hard of hearing, are not explicitly factored into disaster response measures at the national and local levels, including the emergency call application called "GPIS112".

24. The Committee recommends that the State party implement, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, initiatives securing the inclusion of persons who are deaf, deaf blind or hard of hearing in emergency response and mitigation plans and adapt emergency call lines to respond to the requirements of persons who are deaf, deaf blind or hard of hearing through the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Portugal

24. The Committee is concerned that the policies of civil protection and humanitarian assistance in the State party do not take sufficiently into consideration the needs of persons with disabilities in these areas.

25. The Committee recommends that all elements of the State party's disaster-reduction policies and programmes to be inclusive and accessible for all persons with disabilities.

26. The Committee notes that certain disability-related aspects are considered in the State party's policies and programmes regarding migration, refugees and asylum. However, it is deeply concerned that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities often find themselves in situations of destitution or extreme poverty.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party redouble its efforts in its policies and programmes regarding migration, refugees and asylum in order to support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities in situations of destitution or extreme poverty.

Serbia

19. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a general strategy, plan, protocols and tools to protect and assist persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. It is especially concerned about the lack of accessibility of evacuation plans and subsequent reconstruction plans, and lack of equal access to information, with special regards to mass media. Manuals for emergency situations are not in accessible formats either.

20. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt fully accessible and comprehensive emergency strategy, protocols and accessible informative services (e.g. hotlines, SMS-warning application, manuals in sign language and in Braille) adequately tackling the requirements of persons with disabilities, in particular when evacuating them. Additional measures should be taken in relation to information provided via mass media to ensure that

deaf and hard of hearing persons have access to it, and to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The needs of persons with disabilities should also be considered in the planning and implementation of reconstruction programmes, taking into account accessibility standards and universal design.

Slovakia

34. The Committee is concerned that public broadcasting of warnings about natural disasters and emergencies is inaccessible.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party make available early warning systems in all formats, especially sign language and text messages (or other equivalent mobile applications) to ensure persons with disabilities can prepare and respond to emergency situations.

36. The Committee is concerned about the situation of refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities seeking admission to the State party and the fact that those who are detained are not provided with appropriate support and reasonable accommodation.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream disability in its refugee policies and that any detention of persons with disabilities in the context of asylum seeking is provided in line with the Convention.

Thailand

23. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific plans of prevention, protection and assistance for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, prepared in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a disaster risk reduction and management plan that ensures accessibility and the inclusion of all persons with disabilities, and that provides for a single point of contact in situations of emergency and disasters in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Uganda

20. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of reference to persons with disabilities in the National Policy for Internally Displaced Persons and the non-establishment of the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission;
- (b) The absence of specific provisions for refugees with disabilities in Northern Uganda through the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan;
- (c) The absence of provisions for evacuation of persons with disabilities in emergency situations such as fire outbreaks.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national plan to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and also universal accessibility and disability inclusion at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation;**
- (b) Provide information in accessible formats in all languages used in the State party, including Swahili and indigenous and refugee languages as well as sign language, about early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergencies;**
- (c) Monitor, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the implementation of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan to ensure that the requirements of persons with disabilities, including refugees with disabilities, are addressed in post-conflict districts of Northern Uganda;**
- (d) Finalize the draft Uganda national disaster risk reduction and management policy, in close consultation with representatives of persons with disabilities to include provisions for identification and support for persons with disabilities, include persons with disabilities in the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission, and consider implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.**

European Union

30. The Committee is concerned that emergency number 112 is not fully accessible across the European Union to all persons with all types of disabilities and that Member States' civil protection policies are not in line with the new Council conclusions on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management.

31. The Committee recommends that the European Union take necessary measures to ensure that emergency number 112 is fully accessible across the European Union to all persons with all types of disabilities and that all aspects of disaster risk reduction policies and programs are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities.

32. The Committee is concerned about the lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities in all European Union policies and guidelines on humanitarian aid as well as the lack of mechanisms to share knowledge and good practices in line with the Convention between different European Union institutions and between European Union Member States.

33. The Committee recommends that the European Union: (a) Adopt an implementation plan, in line with the Council Conclusions of February 2015 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; (b) Establish a mechanism to build capacity and share good practice between different European Union institutions and between the European Union and its Member States on disability-inclusive and accessible humanitarian aid; (c) Establish a monitoring and accountability framework for the implementation of European Union policies and programmes including the collection of disaggregated data on sex, disability and age.

34. The Committee notes with deep concern the precarious situation of persons with disabilities in the current migrant crisis in the European Union. It is furthermore concerned that refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers with disabilities continue to be detained within the European Union in conditions which do not provide appropriate support and reasonable accommodations. The migration decision-making procedure is not accessible for all persons with disabilities and information and communication is not provided in accessible formats.

35. The Committee recommends that the European Union mainstream disability in its migration and refugee policies. In addition, the Committee recommends that the European Union issue guidelines to its agencies and Member States that restrictive detention of persons with disabilities for migration and asylum seeking purposes is not aligned to the Convention.

Gabon

26. The Committee is concerned about the lack of emergency and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national risk reduction policy and emergency management protocols that are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, developed in close consultation with them and their representative organisations. In addition, ensure that all related information and humanitarian relief are distributed in accessible formats and ways to persons with disabilities.

Kenya

21. The Committee is concerned about the absence of information on the situation of internally displaced persons with disabilities, and those living in refugee camps, as well as the lack of information on emergencies and disaster strategies in accessible formats for persons with disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national plan to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and to further ensure universal accessibility and disability inclusion at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation;

(b) Provide information in accessible modes, means and formats of communication for all persons with disabilities, in all of the State party's official languages, and indigenous languages about early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergency; and

(c) Adopt measures to monitor the situation of persons with disabilities in refugee camps and internally displaced persons with disabilities and ensure that they are entitled to access all services available, including accessible shelters, water and sanitation, education and health.

Mauritius

19. The Committee regrets the lack of clarity as to the legal framework, which the State party will include in the National Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Bill to meet its obligations under article 11 of the Convention.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the drafting process of the National Risk Reduction Disaster Management Bill, in order to ensure accessible and disability inclusive disaster risk management.

Qatar

21. The Committee is concerned by the lack of a specific strategy, protocols and tools to prevent, protect, assist and involve persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Ukraine

22. The Committee is concerned about the reports that persons with disabilities were abandoned and could not be evacuated during the conflict in the east of the country. It is particularly concerned about the reports that there were no warning system for deaf and blind people and that persons with multiple forms of disabilities could not use bomb shelters. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of accurate data on displacement, casualties and injuries among persons with disabilities during the conflict. Furthermore, the Committee notes alarming reports that the humanitarian aid, including aid provided by international donors, is not accessible to persons with disabilities and contributes to their exclusion from relief efforts.

23. The Committee urges that the State party, including at the local level, take all necessary measures to facilitate the protection, including evacuation, of persons with disabilities who currently remain in the conflict areas of the country and ensure that its emergency response mechanisms and evacuation plans are inclusive and accessible to all persons with disabilities. It particularly calls upon the State party to prioritize persons with disabilities in its evacuation plans, including by training the personnel involved. The Committee further recommends to mainstream disability in all humanitarian aid channels and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in setting priorities on aid distribution.

24. The Committee is concerned that a lack of systematic registration process for persons with disabilities who are internally displaced hinders their access to social protection, emergency and humanitarian aid services, including shelters, medicine, benefits, pensions that are necessary for adequate standard of living.

25. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to systematically register internally displaced persons with disabilities and provide them with adequate standard of living.

Cook Islands

21. The Committee is concerned that accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and response protocols is insufficient.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct systematic disaggregated data collection to inform the development of accessible and inclusive protocols, especially for Deaf persons, by implementing and funding the Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management, and ensure the necessary budget allocations including through the use of financing originating from international cooperation.

Czech Republic

20. The Committee is concerned that national emergency protocols do not contain provisions for persons with disabilities, in particular deaf people.

21. The Committee urges the State party to ensure disaster risk reduction and emergency response mechanisms are inclusive and accessible to all persons with disabilities.

Dominican Republic

18. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in plans and strategies for dealing with risks and humanitarian emergencies, the unavailability of information in accessible formats and the lack of sign language interpreters.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a policy inclusive of persons with disabilities in its strategies, plans and protocols for dealing with situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including the provision of information in Dominican Sign Language.

Germany

23. The Committee is concerned about: a) access to the national emergency call system, especially for Deaf persons; b) the absence of a specific strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian relief.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party establish uniform emergency control centres across the State party, including modern protocols for Deaf persons. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt a human rights-based strategy for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian relief which should be inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Mongolia

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific protective measures and assistance to persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, despite the fact that the State party is subjected to frequent natural disasters.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national plan of assistance in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and make the manual inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, especially deaf persons, including ensuring its dissemination in accessible formats.

Turkmenistan

23. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a specific strategy, protocols and tools to prevent, protect, assist and involve persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, with special regards to mass media, ensuring their equal access to information, especially when designing and executing evacuation plans and subsequent reconstruction plans, in compliance with accessibility standards.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, in particular when evacuating them, with specific

regards to Deaf and hard of hearing people and people with multiple forms of disabilities. The needs of persons with disabilities should also be considered in the planning and implementation of reconstruction programmes, taking into account accessibility standards.

Denmark

30. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information from the State party on the involvement by persons with disabilities and their organizations in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of the Strategy for Danish Humanitarian Action 2010–2015, and at the absence of specific alert systems or protocols to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support and protection in the event of risk situations or emergencies.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party take action to ensure that disaster risk reduction is fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, to develop and enforce accessible alert systems or protocols, and to organize training for rescue and emergency personnel to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support and protection in the event of risk situations or emergencies.

Republic of Korea

19. The Committee is concerned about the absence of specific strategies in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities in situations of emergencies, including natural disasters. The Committee is particularly concerned that the enforcement decrees of the Framework Act on Building and the Act on the Promotion of Convenience for the Disabled, Senior Citizens, and Pregnant Women fail to include evacuation systems for persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a comprehensive plan to ensure, in situations of risk, including the occurrence of natural disasters, the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in consideration of the characteristics of their disabilities, and to further ensure universal accessibility and disability inclusion at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation.

Mexico

21. The Committee notes with concern the lack of specific prevention, protection and assistance plans for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national plan of assistance in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies that includes persons with disabilities on a cross-cutting basis and the institutions that care for them;

(b) Design and disseminate, in accessible formats in all of the State party's official languages, including those used by the indigenous communities, information on early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergency, protection systems, institutional and community crisis response networks, and identify adequate places of refuge and shelters accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas; and

(c) Train all civil defence staff in addressing issues of security and protection for persons with disabilities in situations of risk – such as armed violence, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters – including a gender and age perspective.

Sweden

31. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the State party's efforts to reduce risks and on its preparedness to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support in the event of a disaster.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake to ensure that disaster risk reduction is fully accessible and disability inclusive, and take measures to ensure its

preparedness to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support in the event of a disaster.

Azerbaijan

24. The Committee notes that the State party has an Activity Plan on the evacuation of persons with disabilities from areas of emergency and the provision of humanitarian assistance. However, the Committee is concerned at the lack of detailed information regarding the training provided to staff involved in the evacuation of persons with disabilities during emergencies.

25. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to provide training to persons charged with the task of evacuating persons with disabilities in the event of an emergency. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake to adopt and implement a comprehensive plan on disaster risk reduction, which is fully accessible and fully inclusive.

Australia

22. The Committee notes with concern that despite the adoption of local and state emergency response and mitigation plans, disability needs are often not explicitly factored into disaster response measures and that there are as yet no specific measures in National Plans to address emergency intervention strategies for persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee calls upon the State party in consultation with people with disabilities, to establish nationally consistent emergency management standards, that are implemented across all three levels of government; to ensure inclusivity across diverse disabilities and to cover all phases of emergency management preparation, early warning, evacuation, interim housing and support, recovery and rebuilding. It further recommends inclusion in National Plans of emergency response schemes for persons with disabilities.

Austria

25. While taking note of the efforts by the State party to develop a plan on disaster preparedness, and its contributions to development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the State party's preparedness to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support in the event of a disaster.

26. The Committee urges the State party to provide information in its next periodic report on the specific measures taken to ensure its preparedness to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support in the event of a disaster. The State party should also increase its efforts to implement the twin-track approach in order to fully achieve disability inclusion in all spheres of the Austrian Development Cooperation.

El Salvador

25. The Committee is concerned that information regarding plans on prevention, risk mitigation and care of persons with disabilities in emergency situations are not available in accessible formats, and that organizations of persons with disabilities are not assigned a role in such situations.

26. The Committee urges the State party to define a concrete role for organizations of persons with disabilities in the design of the national civil protection system and to ensure that information on emergency mechanisms is made available in accessible formats.

Paraguay

27. The Committee notes that the State party has finished formulating its national policy on risk protection and civil defence. However, it notes with concern the absence of objectives and specific strategies to include persons with disabilities, despite their vulnerability in emergency and risk situations.

28. The Committee urges the State party to adopt the national risk-management policy as a matter of urgency, ensuring the involvement of disabled persons' organizations and taking due account of their input and recommendations.

Spain

31. The Committee is concerned at the insufficiency of specific protocols for persons with disabilities in emergency situations.

32. The Committee calls upon the State party to review its laws and policies related to emergency situations with a view to including provisions guaranteeing the security and protection of persons with disabilities.