



# **IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations**

*Article 29 CRPD  
(Participation in political and public  
life)*

**October 2022**

## Article 29 - Participation in political and public life

*States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake:*

*a) To ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:*

*i. Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;*

*ii. Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;*

*iii. Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;*

*b) To promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:*

*i. Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;*

*ii. Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.*

**Bangladesh  
China  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
New Zealand  
Republic of Korea  
Singapore  
Hungary  
Jamaica  
Mexico  
Switzerland  
Venezuela  
Djibouti  
France  
Estonia  
Albania  
Australia  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Greece  
India  
Iraq  
Kuwait  
Myanmar  
Niger  
Norway  
Rwanda  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Spain  
Turkey  
Vanuatu  
Algeria  
Bulgaria  
Malta  
Philippines  
Poland  
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Haiti  
Oman  
Russian Federation  
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  
Slovakia  
Thailand  
Uganda  
Brazil  
European Union  
Gabon  
Kenya  
Mauritius  
Qatar  
Ukraine  
Cook Islands  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Dominican Republic  
Germany  
Mongolia  
Turkmenistan  
New Zealand  
Denmark  
Republic of Korea  
Mexico  
Sweden  
Azerbaijan  
Costa Rica  
Australia  
Austria  
El Salvador  
Paraguay  
Argentina  
China  
Hungary  
Peru  
Spain  
Tunisia

Please note there are no recommendations on Cuba, South Africa, Nepal, Brazil, Belgium and Ecuador.

## Bangladesh

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That articles 66 and 122 of the Constitution and the Electoral Rolls Act of 2009 restrict the participation of persons with disabilities in political life on the basis of impairment, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The physical inaccessibility of polling centres and lack of information regarding electoral materials in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, in particular, blind and visually impaired persons, to exercise their franchise;
- (c) The lack of secrecy in the voting process for persons with disabilities which makes the process undemocratic;
- (d) The low representation and participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making.

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

- (a) Repeal or amend all laws and policies that restrict or deny persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, the right to vote and stand for elections;**
- (b) Take concrete measures to ensure the physical accessibility of polling centres and provide information in accessible formats on electoral materials for all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities are guaranteed secrecy in the voting process;**
- (d) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making processes at all levels, including encouraging them to stand for elections.**

## China

56. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information provided on:

- (a) The participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/ or intellectual disabilities, on an equal basis with others, in voting and electoral processes, including through guarantees of fully accessible voting procedures by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation.
- (b) The ability of organizations of persons with disabilities operating independently of the China Disabled Persons' Federation to access funds, provide services, consult on relevant laws and policies and contribute to the work of international human rights mechanisms.

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

- (a) Amend legal or policy provisions restricting the rights of all persons with disabilities to vote and to stand in elections and hold public office and promote the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and in public decision-making processes at all levels, including through affirmative action measures;**
- (b) In line with the Opinion on the Reform of the Social Organization Management System and Promotion of the Healthy and Well-Ordered Development of Social Organizations (2016), provide support for organizations of persons with disabilities to operate independently of the China Disabled Persons' Federation, encouraging their participation in all decision-making processes which affect persons with disabilities.**

## Indonesia

60. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of measures taken to ensure the participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities, particularly underrepresented persons, such as deaf persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons and women with disabilities;

(b) The lack of accessibility to polling stations, voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, and online or printed election materials;

(c) The lack of information and training for election officers to respond to the access needs of persons with disabilities registered to vote.

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

**(a) Implement specific measures to ensure equality and participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and women with disabilities;**

**(b) Ensure that polling stations, electoral and voting procedures, facilities, and online or printed election materials are accessible to all persons with disabilities;**

**(c) Develop information and training for election officers to ensure the appropriate response to access needs of persons with disabilities.**

## Japan

61. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The limited accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials and the insufficient elections-related information, according to the diversity of persons with disabilities;

(b) Barriers to participate in political life and public administration, to hold office and perform public functions, particularly for women with disabilities.

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

**(a) Amend the Public Offices Election Act, to ensure that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use for all persons with disabilities, along with accommodation of election-related information, including election broadcasts and campaigns;**

**(b) Ensure that the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in political life and public administration is promoted, they can effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, by facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies, and providing personal assistants.**

## Lao People's Democratic Republic

54. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) That persons with disabilities deemed "crazy persons", "persons who lost mind" are excluded from exercising their right to vote and stand for elections under the Constitution, the Civil Code and the Law No.105 on Election;

(b) The lack of accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials;

(c) The low level of participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, the limited representation of organizations of persons with disabilities at the provincial level and their limited participation in decision-making processes.

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

**(a) Amend constitutional and legislative provisions restricting the rights of persons with disabilities to vote and to stand in elections and hold public office;**

**(b) Guarantee the accessibility of electoral processes, facilities and materials, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;**

**(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively participate in political, public life and decision-making processes at all levels, including through their representative organizations, and strengthen organizational and technical capacities of these organizations.**

## New Zealand

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of support for persons with disabilities to form their own sustainable organisations and build their capacity to represent persons with disabilities, and in particular the lack of organisations to represent Māori with disabilities, Pasifika persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ persons with disabilities, children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.

**56. The Committee recommends that the State Party develop strategies and measures, including financial resources to support persons with disabilities to form sustainable representative organisations, including to support the development of organisations of Māori, Pasifika, LGBTIQ+, children and women and girls with disabilities.**

## Republic of Korea

59. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The discriminatory provisions of the Act on Medical Treatment and Custody, excluding persons with disabilities who are undergoing medical treatment and are in detention facilities from the election process;

(b) The lack of measures taken to ensure the participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons and women with disabilities, who are underrepresented;

(c) The lack of accessibility to polling stations, voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, and online or printed election materials, all of which limits the effective political participation of persons with disabilities.

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

(a) **Repeal all discriminatory provisions denying the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their full participation in electoral process and in political and public life;**

(b) **Introduce specific measures to ensure equality and participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and women with disabilities, including as elected representatives, and to support candidates with disabilities to stand for elections, particularly those standing for minority political parties;**

(c) **Guarantee that electoral and voting procedures, facilities, and online or printed election materials are accessible in plain language and Easy Read, thereby facilitating their use by all persons with disabilities.**

## Singapore

55. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The low level of representation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making processes and in public life;

(b) The lack of accessibility of polling stations, voting procedures facilities, print and online material, and general information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, for persons with disabilities, including persons with visual impairments, persons with hearing impairments, and persons with intellectual disabilities;

(c) Reports about intimidation of as well as repression and retribution against organizations of persons with disabilities and their members who voice sharply critical views on government policies relating to persons with disabilities.

(d) Reports about intimidation and possible retribution against organizations of persons with disabilities and their representatives as a consequence of their participation in the State party reporting procedure.

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

- (a) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making processes at all levels, and in political life in general;
- (b) Ensure that electoral and voting procedures, facilities, as well as online and print election material are accessible in all formats, such as Braille, plain language, Easy Read, sign language, or on accessible websites;
- (c) Guarantee that all organizations of persons with disabilities and their members can participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, irrespective of their views on the government's policies regarding the implementation of the Convention, and do not face any intimidation, retribution or repression whatsoever from the government or other public entities.
- (d) Ensure that representatives of all organizations of persons with disabilities, irrespective of their views on the government's policies regarding the implementation of the Convention, can participate in the State party reporting procedure without fear of intimidation, retribution or repression.

## Hungary

56. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Article XXIII (6) of the Fundamental Law and section 13/A and related provisions of Act XXXVI of 2013 on the electoral procedure, which allow for the restrictions on the right to vote for persons under guardianship through the discriminatory individualized judicial evaluation of a person's ability or capacity to vote;
- (b) The lack of clarity in section 181 (1) of Act XXXVI of 2013 on the electoral procedure;
- (c) The lack of accessibility to voting procedures, facilities and materials for all persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with physical, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, hearing or visual disabilities and autistic persons;
- (d) The low level of participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, in the State party's political life, including in high-level decision-making positions.

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

- (a) Repeal article XXIII (6) of the Fundamental Law and section 13/A and all related provisions of Act XXXVI of 2013 on the electoral procedure, and recognize the right to vote and stand for election of all persons with disabilities without any individualized judicial evaluation of a person's ability or capacity to vote;
- (b) Amend section 181 (1) of Act XXXVI of 2013 on the electoral procedure through recognizing the right of all persons with disabilities to access assistance to vote provided by a person of their own choice;
- (c) Ensure that electoral and voting procedures, facilities and election materials provide reasonable accommodation for persons with severe impairments and are appropriate and accessible for all persons with disabilities regardless of impairment;
- (d) Develop and ensure sustainable policies and measures to promote the election and appointment of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in high-level decision-making positions at the national and local levels, and increase their participation in public service by taking into account indicator 16.7.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Jamaica

52. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The discriminatory provisions excluding persons with psychosocial disabilities from appointment as members of the Senate, from election as members of the House of Representatives and from voting, as well as section 34 of the Disability Act, 2014, which prevents them from participation in civil society and from establishing their own organizations;

(b) The lack of measures taken to ensure the participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons and women with disabilities, who are underrepresented;

(c) The lack of accessibility to polling stations, voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, and online or printed election materials, all of which limits the effective political participation of persons with hearing impairments and persons with intellectual disabilities;

(d) The lack of information available to election officers on different needs of persons with disabilities registered to vote in their stations.

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

**(a) Repeal all discriminatory provisions denying the rights of persons with disabilities to fully participate in political and public life;**

**(b) Introduce specific measures to ensure equality and participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and women with disabilities;**

**(c) Guarantee that electoral and voting procedures, facilities, and online or printed election materials are accessible in plain language and Easy Read, thereby facilitating their use by all persons with disabilities;**

**(d) Develop a voter registration database with information on voters with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age and impairment, and avail election officers of the information prior to the voting to enable them to prepare and to ensure full participation of persons with disabilities.**

## Mexico

64. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are denied the right to vote, despite jurisprudence by the national Supreme Court of Justice, and that voting procedures, facilities and materials are not accessible. The Committee is also concerned about the extent of support provided for persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, participating in politics and public life.

**65. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all persons with disabilities. It further recommends that the State party ensure the accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials in urban areas. Additionally, it recommends that the necessary support be provided to persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, participating in politics and public life.**

## Switzerland

55. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That persons with disabilities deemed “permanently incapable of discernment” are excluded from exercising their right to vote at the federal and cantonal levels;

(b) The underrepresentation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, including in decision-making positions;

(c) Reports of persons with disabilities having lost their social insurance benefits owing to their participation in political and public life, which the authorities deemed proof that they were able to work.

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

**(a) Repeal all legal provisions at the federal and cantonal levels that result in persons with disabilities, in particular those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, being denied their right to vote;**

**(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives,**

including by ensuring the accessibility of the voting process to all persons with disabilities, including those in institutions, and by providing opportunities and support for persons with disabilities to be politically active and stand for election in all cantons and at the federal level;

**(c) Establish mechanisms to ensure the right of all persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life, including through advocacy, without incurring penalties or reprisals, such as disqualification for social insurance benefits and other entitlements.**

## Venezuela

48. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those living in poverty, are most affected by the economic blockade against the State party and the pandemic, which may force them into begging, and that access to social programmes is limited to those covered by the Carnet de la Patria ("Card for the Nation") system.

**49. The Committee recommends that, in accordance with the Convention and bearing in mind target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:**

**(a) Determine how many persons with disabilities are living in poverty or extreme poverty, according to the unsatisfied basic needs method;**

**(b) Carry out a survey on the economic situation of persons with disabilities during and after the pandemic, and increase the amount of the benefits granted to them;**

**(c) Take steps to include social programmes in legislation on social welfare, the economy, labour, health and education so that they have a fixed budget and targets and are subject to assessment and follow-up, especially in respect of persons with disabilities, and collect information on the effectiveness of such programmes during the pandemic;**

**(d) Not restrict access to social programmes to those in possession of a Carnet de la Patria.**

## Djibouti

51. The Committee notes with concern:

The discriminatory provisions of the Civil Code excluding persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons deprived of their legal capacity from the election process;

The lack of regulation on accessibility to the voting environment and electoral material and information by all persons with disabilities.

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

**Repeal all discriminatory provisions denying persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons deprived of their legal capacity from voting and participating in the electoral process;**

**Develop and adopt measures to ensure the accessibility of voting environment and the availability of accessible information and material for all persons with disabilities.**

## France

58. The Committee notes with concern:

The lack of accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials as well of election campaigns for persons with disabilities, particularly affecting persons with intellectual disabilities;

Barriers in legislation for persons with disabilities under guardianship to stand as candidates in national and local elections;

Low participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life, including in election campaigns.

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

**Ensure accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials as well as of election campaigns for all persons with disabilities, including by applying support measures for**

persons with intellectual disabilities through alternative and augmentative modes of information;

**Repeal article L200 of the Electoral Code concerning restrictions to be elected in national and local elections for persons under substituted decision-making;**

**Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and to stand for elections.**

## Estonia

56. The Committee notes with concern:

The discriminatory provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure denying the rights of persons with disabilities to vote and to be elected when they have been subjected to restricted legal capacity;

The lack of accessibility to voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, online or printed election materials, all of which limits the effective political participation of persons with hearing impairments and persons with intellectual disabilities.

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

**Repeal all discriminatory provisions denying the rights of persons with disabilities to vote and to be elected;**

**Guarantee that electoral and voting procedures, facilities and online or printed election materials are accessible in plain language and Easy Read, thereby facilitating their use by all persons with disabilities.**

## Albania

47. The Committee is concerned that in the State party there are legal provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities to vote. The Committee is concerned at the exclusion, in practice, of persons with disabilities from public life, especially women with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of accessibility at all stages of the electoral process, in particular the accessibility of polling stations and voting materials, for persons with disabilities.

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

**Amend the relevant laws, including electoral laws, and the rules of procedure relevant to the Central Election Commission to guarantee the right to participate in political and public life, comprising the right to vote to all persons with disabilities, and repeal any provisions that deny these rights to persons who are deemed to lack legal capacity;**

**Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making;**

**Take measures to allow unhindered physical access to voting, put in place secure mechanisms to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, and ensure the availability of other electoral materials and information in accessible formats, including in sign language, Braille and Easy Read, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.**

## Australia

53. The Committee is concerned that electoral laws provide that persons of “unsound mind” are not entitled to have their names on the electoral roll or to vote in elections and may be removed from the electoral roll following someone’s objection. It is also concerned that the electoral process is not fully accessible and that it does not guarantee secret voting rights to persons with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of information on the representation of women with disabilities, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with disabilities, in political and public life.

**54. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation on ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to vote in elections on an equal basis with others (CRPD/C/AUS/CO/1, para. 52). It recommends that the State party develop measures, with adequate resources, to ensure the full accessibility of electoral processes and guaranteeing secret voting rights. It also recommends that the State party implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/AUS/CO/8, para. 36) to ensure representation and accelerate the participation of women with disabilities, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with disabilities, in political and public life at all levels.**

## Ecuador

51. The Committee is concerned at the failure to take action to ensure that persons with disabilities, especially women, have access to elected office, with the result that there has been no reinforcement or increase in the effective and independent participation of such persons or their representative organizations in all of the country's political processes. It is also concerned about the failure to disseminate information on the physical and communication accessibility measures in place in polling stations.

**52. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to elected office in order to increase and reinforce their effective and independent participation through their representative organizations in all of the country's political processes and that it disseminate information on the physical and communication accessibility measures that are in place in polling stations.**

## El Salvador

54. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory provisions in the Electoral Code and under article 1317 of the Civil Code which restrict the political participation of persons with disabilities declared "incapable" by law, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with hearing impairments. The Committee is also concerned that infrastructural and communication barriers continue to exist in voting centres.

**55. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the provisions of the Electoral Code and Civil Code that restrict the rights of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and those with hearing impairments to participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, to stand in elections and to hold public office. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt measures to strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in political and public life. The Committee further recommends that the State party take measures to ensure the accessibility of voting centres for persons with disabilities.**

## Greece

42. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities subject to judicial support are deprived of their right to vote. It is also concerned about the lack of accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials.

**43. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the relevant voting framework, including laws, rules of procedure and support mechanisms, to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life and exercise their right to vote, inter alia, by guaranteeing unhindered physical access to voting, ensuring the secrecy of the ballot and the availability of other voting materials and information in accessible formats in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.**

## India

60. The Committee is concerned about the constitutional provisions restricting the participation of persons with disabilities in political life on the basis of impairment, and the insufficient accessibility of information and electoral proceedings for all persons with disabilities.

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

**Amend constitutional and legislative provisions restricting the rights of all persons with disabilities to vote and to stand in elections and hold public office, and promote the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and in public decision-making processes at all levels, including through affirmative action measures;**

**Ensure the accessibility of electoral processes, including physical and informational environments, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and taking account of resolution of the sixth meeting of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia, in 2015.**

## Iraq

53. The Committee is concerned about:

The legal restrictions, including those in article 49 (2) in the Constitution of Iraq, article 46 (1) of the Civil Code No. 40 (1951) and other provisions in Law No. 45 (2013) on parliamentary elections, Law No. 36 (2008) on elections to governorate, provincial and district assemblies, Law No. 12 (2010) on non-governmental organizations and Law No. 36 (2015) on political parties, which limit the right of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to vote and to be elected and that Law No. 38 (2013) does not contain a provision on the right of persons with disabilities to fully participate in political and public life;

The physical, informational and attitudinal barriers deterring persons with disabilities from participating in election processes, including the inaccessibility of polling stations and the absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read;

The absence of information on the measures taken by the State party to increase the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public life.

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

**Repeal discriminatory provisions that prevent persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities from exercising their rights to vote and to stand for election, and amend Law No. 38 (2013) by including in it the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life;**

**Ensure that the special procedure to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in the electoral process, to render polling stations accessible and to facilitate voting described in the replies of the State party to the list of issues (CRPD/C/IRQ/Q/1/Add.1, para. 163) allows all persons with disabilities to participate in elections at all levels and to be elected, including through the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read;**

**Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in political and public life and decision-making.**

## Kuwait

56. The Committee is concerned about:

Discriminatory restrictions on the right to vote of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities under guardianship resulting from denial of their legal capacity;

The lack of accessible voting procedures, facilities and materials for all persons with disabilities;

The lack of persons with disabilities in public office;

The absence of mechanisms to consult and directly engage with persons with disabilities or their representative organizations, with the result that such persons and organizations are rarely involved in decision-making and rarely have their opinion heard.

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

**Take advantage of the review of the electoral law (Act No. 35/1962) to revise all other relevant laws and regulations to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, can effectively enjoy their right to vote and stand for election, strengthen the accessibility of the voting environment, including ballots, booths and polling stations, make election materials available in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read, and introduce individualized accommodations for persons with disabilities who are unable to attend polling stations in person, including through assistance by a person of their choice;**

**Train election officials on the right of persons with disabilities to vote and participate in elections with individualized accommodations and support, in the exercise of their legal capacity;**

**Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in all areas of public and political life, including the National Assembly;**

**Establish mechanisms for carrying out ongoing and systematic consultations with and participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.**

## Myanmar

55. The Committee is concerned that:

The Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law excludes persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities from electoral processes;

The polling stations, electoral materials and information are not accessible to persons with disabilities throughout the State party;

The measures taken to assist voters with disabilities may, in fact, hinder their access to secret ballots;

Representation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making remains low.

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

**Repeal or amend legislation that denies persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, their right to participation in political and public life, including rights to vote and stand for election;**

**Ensure the accessibility of polling stations, electoral materials and information for the variety of persons with disabilities, including in the Union Election in 2020;**

**Ensure that measures taken to assist voters with disabilities guarantee their right to cast their votes in a truly secret manner;**

**Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making at all levels.**

## Niger

47. The Committee is concerned about the denial of the right to vote for certain categories of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and those deprived of their legal capacity; and the lack of accessibility to the polling centres, electoral materials and information in accessible formats.

**48. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal or amend legislation that denies persons with disabilities the right to vote; ensure that they are able to access secret ballots, election materials and polling stations; provide information in accessible formats; guarantee voter education, voter registration processes, and awareness about the electoral**

**process for persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities; and ensure that those who receive assistance at the polling station can cast their vote in an independent and secret manner.**

## Norway

45. The Committee is concerned that voting procedures, facilities and materials are not accessible. The Committee is also concerned about the low rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities in elections and their low representation in elected and appointed bodies.

**46. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:**

**(a) Ensure that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, including materials in sign language, Braille and Easy Read and consider introducing accessible electronic voting;**

**(b) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making with measurable targets and indicators.**

## Rwanda

53. The Committee is concerned about:

Articles 8(3) and 24 (4) of the Organic Law Governing Elections, which deny persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities their rights to vote and to run for elections;

Voting procedures, facilities and materials that are not accessible for all persons with disabilities;

The low rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making, including in the parliament, government, mainstream women organizations and the leadership of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities.

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

**Revise its laws, including the Organic Law Governing Elections, to ensure that persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities can enjoy their rights to vote and to run for elections;**

**Adopt a plan to ensure the accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials, including through the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;**

**Take all appropriate measures, including specific measures, to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in political life and public decision-making, including in the parliament, government, mainstream women organizations and the leadership of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities.**

## Saudi Arabia

51. The Committee is concerned that:

Persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities are prevented from exercising their right to vote and to stand for elections, including by legislation;

Election materials and polling stations are rarely accessible;

Persons with disabilities seldom compete for public office.

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

**Repeal all legislative provisions, including in the Municipal Councils Act, which prevent persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities from voting and standing for elections;**

**Take all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure the accessibility of the voting environment, including by guaranteeing the accessibility of polling stations, as well as the provision of accessible electoral materials and information for all persons with disabilities;**

**Promote the participation of persons with disabilities in civic and political processes.**

## Senegal

49. The Committee is concerned about:

The exclusion of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons deprived of their legal capacity from voting and the electoral process in general;

The lack of accessibility of the voting environment and absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;

The lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the electoral process, including the lack of training for election officials to address the requirements of persons with disabilities at the polling centres.

**50. The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

**Repeal all legislation that excludes persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons deprived of their legal capacity from voting and involvement in the electoral process;**

**Adopt effective measures to ensure accessibility of the voting environment, including the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;**

**Take necessary measures to include persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in the voting and electoral process, and provide appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities, at all stages of the electoral process.**

## Spain

54. The Committee is concerned about:

The lack of accessibility of polling stations and voting materials for persons with disabilities in electoral processes;

The critically low level of participation and representation of persons with disabilities in national and regional policy-making bodies.

**55. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to enable the political and public participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others. It further recommends that the State party:**

**Ensure that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are accessible for all persons with disabilities, including in sign language, Braille and Easy Read;**

**Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making.**

## Turkey

56. The Committee is concerned about:

Legislative provisions that deny persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities the right to vote and stand for election;

Lack of accessibility of polling stations, ballot boxes, and absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read;

The lack of information on appropriate awareness raising, including training programmes, for election officials to address the requirements of persons with disabilities in electoral and political processes.

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

**Amend the Basic Provisions for Election and Voter Registration, and eliminate the prohibition of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in exercising their rights to vote and run for office;**

**Adopt measures to ensure secret ballot and the accessibility of the voting environment, including the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all**

persons with disabilities, paying particular attention to accessibility in rural and remote areas;

**Conduct appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities, at all stages of the electoral process to enable their effective participation in electoral and political processes.**

## Vanuatu

48. The Committee is concerned that Schedule 4 of the Representation of the Peoples Act (2006) still restricts the right of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to participate in electoral processes. It is further concerned that the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life is limited, including working in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, as well as working as teachers and health professionals.

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

**Adopt legislative and administrative measures, including the amendment of Schedule 4 of the Representation of the Peoples Act (2006), to ensure the right of persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to fully participate in the electoral process, including voting through secret ballot on their own or to be assisted by a person of their choices with full respect of their autonomy, rights, will and preferences;**

**Adopt a strategy to promote the participation and effective representation of persons with disabilities, particularly of women with disabilities, in political and public life and in decision-making positions at national, provincial and community level;**

**Provide information on electoral processes in accessible formats.**

## Algeria

48. The Committee is concerned about legal restrictions, including those in the Electoral Code (art. 5), which discriminatorily and severely limit the right of persons with disabilities to vote, particularly persons who are subject to "interdiction". It is also concerned about the physical and informational barriers, which deter persons with disabilities from election processes and from participating in public and political life.

**49. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all laws which restrict the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and persons with intellectual disabilities, to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others. It also recommends that the State party adopt the necessary measures to eliminate all physical and informational barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating in electoral processes.**

## Bulgaria

61. The Committee notes with concern that the legislation of the State party deprives persons with disabilities under guardianship, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities of their right to vote and stand for elections. It furthermore notes that some polling stations are not accessible and that information and communications related to elections are not fully accessible.

**62. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation and bring it into line with provisions of articles 12 and 29 of the Convention enabling all adult persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote and stand for elections. It also recommends that the State party produce information about elections, in accessible formats, including in Easy Read and allocate financial and technical resources to strengthen physical accessibility to polling stations.**

## Malta

41. The Committee is concerned that the State party maintains its reservation to article 29(a) (i) and (iii) of the Convention, according to which the State party reserves the right to continue to apply its current electoral legislation in so far as voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as assistance in voting procedures are concerned. It is concerned that the rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are restricted upon examination by a Medical Board and that voting material in Braille is not available to persons with visual impairments. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information on the representation and participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life and that they do not effectively participate in the process of decision-making.

**42. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:**

**Withdraw its reservation on article 29(a) (i) and (iii) of the Convention, so that they can exercise the right to vote;**

**Take the legal and policy measures in order to empower persons with disabilities to effectively participate in political and public life and in the process of decision-making, in particular provide the necessary support for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, so that they can participate in decision-making processes on an equal basis with others;**

**Ensure that all electoral procedures, facilities and materials are accessible for all persons with disabilities, including through audio devices, ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to a secret ballot;**

**Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political and public life and decision-making.**

## Philippines

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about the participation of persons with disabilities at the local and national level, in conducting public affairs, and that persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities face barriers to exercise their right to vote.

**51. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal discriminatory provisions that prevent persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities from exercising their rights to vote and stand for elections. It also recommends that the State party takes measures to facilitate electronic voting for all persons with disabilities regardless type of impairment.**

## Poland

48. The Committee is concerned about:

Article 62(2) of the Polish Constitution, which denies persons deprived of legal capacity the right to vote and participate in a referendum, as well as other legislation such as the Law of Associations which prevents persons deprived of legal capacity to found an association, to be a member of one, and to organise public assemblies;

Amendment of the Election Code in 2018 which limit voting procedures by correspondence and therefore the accessibility of voting procedures for persons with disabilities;

Remaining inaccessible polling stations, including lack of solution for enabling the independent and secret voting by persons with severe hands paresis, and lack of support to vote for deaf persons.

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

**Abolish all provisions which deny persons with psychosocial or intellectual disability and persons deprived of legal capacity their right to vote and all other political rights;**

**Replace the amendment of 2018 to the Electoral Law and ensure accessibility of voting procedures for all persons with disabilities;**

**Ensure accessibility of all polling stations and election procedures for all persons with disabilities, including measures to enable the independent and secret voting by person with severe hands paresis, and support for deaf persons to vote.**

## The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

52. The Committee is concerned about:

Elections laws setting “ mental capacity” as a pre-requisite for the right to vote and run for public office, thus denying these rights to persons with intellectual disabilities and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities;

The inaccessibility of the voting centres and their environment, particularly for persons with disabilities residing in institutions, and the absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats such as Braille, tactile, sign language and Easy Read for persons with disabilities;

The lack of training for election officials to address the requirements of persons with disabilities at the polling centres;

The lack of support to persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities to exercise their right to vote and stand for election.

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

**Review its elections laws with a view to removing the prerequisites that prevent person with intellectual disabilities and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities from exercising their right to vote and run for office;**

**Adopt measures to ensure the accessibility of the voting centres and their environments, particularly for persons with disabilities residing in institutions, including the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;**

**Conduct appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities, at all stages of the electoral process to enable people with disabilities’ effective participation in electoral and political processes;**

**Provide the necessary support to persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or persons with intellectual disabilities to exercise their right to vote and stand for election.**

## Haiti

52. The Committee is concerned about:

The fact that the electoral decree of 2015 (articles 29, 87.2 and 157) restricts the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in political life and to exercise their right to vote or to join political parties as members or elected candidates;

The inaccessibility of polling stations and of all stages of the electoral processes including registration of voters in the electoral register and voting procedures, lack of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, and lack of training of the members of the electoral staff on the rights of persons with disabilities;

The low number of persons with disabilities running for or holding elected public office.

**53. The Committee urges the State party to:**

**Repeal laws and regulations that restrict the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in public and political life, in particular abrogate the electoral decree, articles 29, 87.2 and 157;**

**Remove all physical and other barriers and provide reasonable accommodation throughout all stages of the electoral processes, including the provisions of information and materials in accessible formats and ensure the adequate training for members of the electoral staff on the rights of persons with disabilities at all stages of the electoral process;**

**Collect and publish disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities who participate in public or political life and implement measures to increase the number of persons with disabilities in public and political life.**

## Oman

51. The Committee is concerned that election information and materials are not accessible to persons with disabilities, especially blind and deaf persons and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and polling stations are often not physically accessible, as well as the lack of secrecy in the voting process for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned at the reported low number of persons with disabilities in public office.

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

**Ensure, through legislative and other measures, that persons with disabilities are able to access ballots, election materials and polling stations, including information in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language and Easy-Read documents for persons who are blind or visually impaired, deaf and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities respectively;**

**Adopt measures for the provision of voter education and awareness to persons with disabilities, including voter registration and ensure that when voting, persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their choice;**

**Take measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in all areas of public and political life, including in the Majlis al-Dawla (Council of State) and the Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Assembly).**

## Russian Federation

58. The Committee is concerned that the State Party does not have a comprehensive and binding legislation guaranteeing the exercise of electoral rights of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee notes that the decision of the federal Central Electoral Commission of 9 August 2017 in this regard has only the status of 'recommendations'.

**59. The Committee urges the State party to adopt a comprehensive legislation or amend the current law on elections in order to ensure the accessibility of elections and the relevant information for voting to all persons with disabilities in line with paragraph 26 of this Concluding Observations.**

## Seychelles

49. The Committee is concerned at:

The denial of the right to vote for persons presumed 'incapable of understanding the meaning, purpose and effect of elections' because of impairment, and the lack of accessible voting materials for persons with intellectual disabilities;

The low political and participation in public life of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities.

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

**Ensure the right to vote for all persons regardless impairment and provide them with supported decision making, including accessible voting materials for all persons with disabilities, irrespective of impairment;**

**Enable persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, to exercise their political rights, including the right to stand for public office and participate in the conduct of public affairs.**

## Slovenia

49. The Committee is concerned at:

The denial of the right to vote for persons presumed 'incapable of understanding the meaning, purpose and effect of elections' because of impairment, and the lack of accessible voting materials for persons with intellectual disabilities;

The low political and participation in public life of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities.

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

**Ensure the right to vote for all persons regardless impairment and provide them with supported decision making, including accessible voting materials for all persons with disabilities, irrespective of impairment;**  
**Enable persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, to exercise their political rights, including the right to stand for public office and participate in the conduct of public affairs.**

## Sudan

59. The Committee is concerned about:

Elections laws excluding persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from electoral processes, by establishing “mental capacity” as a pre-requisite for the right to vote and running for public office;

The inaccessibility of the voting environment and the absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read;

The lack of training for election officials to address the requirements of persons with disabilities at the polling centres;

The lack of support to persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities to exercise their right to vote and stand for election.

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

**Review its elections laws, in line with the Committee’s general comment No.1 (2014), with a view to including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in electoral processes, and removing the prerequisites that prevent persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from exercising their right to vote and run for office;**

**Adopt measures to ensure the accessibility of the voting environment, including the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;**

**Conduct appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities, at all stages of the electoral process to enable their effective participation in electoral and political processes;**

**Provide adequate support to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to enable them to exercise their rights to vote and run for public office.**

## Latvia

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accessibility to electoral processes, facilities and materials for persons with intellectual or physical disabilities, as well as for blind or deaf persons.

**51. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee the right to vote independently by ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to use for all persons with disabilities.**

## Luxembourg

50. The Committee is concerned that the rights of persons with disabilities under guardianship to vote and be elected remain restricted by law. It is also concerned that voting procedures, facilities and materials lack accessibility. The Committee notes with concern the low rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities in political life and public decision-making.

**51. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:**

**(a) Take the legal and other measures necessary to enable the political and public participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including the right to vote;**

**(b)Ensure that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate and accessible for all persons with disabilities, including in sign language, Braille and Easy Read;  
Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making.**

## Montenegro

52. The Committee is concerned about the growing exclusion of persons with disabilities from public life due to the increasing number of persons with disabilities whose legal capacity is restricted. It notes with concern that:

Persons whose legal capacity is restricted are deprived of the rights to vote and to stand for election;

Several physical and informational barriers remain in the voting process.

**53.The Committee recommends that the State party amend the electoral law(s) and the rules of procedure in order to:**

**Give all persons with disabilities the rights to vote and to stand for election;**

**Ensure unhindered physical access to voting, secure mechanisms to ensure secrecy of the ballot regardless of the form of disability, and the availability of other electoral materials and information in accessible formats, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.**

## Morocco

54.The Committee is concerned about:

The inaccessibility of the voting environment and the absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities;

The lack of training for election officials on addressing the requirements of persons with disabilities at polling centres.

**55.The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a plan to ensure the accessibility of the voting environment, including through the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities, and provide appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities at all stages of the electoral process.**

## Panama

56. The Committee is concerned at the small number of persons with disabilities involved in political and public life, especially how few of them hold elected office. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of accessibility at all stages of the electoral process, in particular the accessibility of polling stations and voting materials, for persons with disabilities.

**57. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to encourage and help persons with disabilities to exercise their political rights, including the right to stand for public office, and that it ensure that there are no legal or practical barriers to the right to vote of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to ensure that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are fully accessible to persons with disabilities in urban, rural and indigenous areas alike, including that all polling stations have sufficient accessible ballots, with a view to guaranteeing assisted and secret voting. In addition, it recommends that the State party adopt programmes to encourage persons with disabilities to stand for public office.**

## United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

60. The Committee is concerned at the insufficient information on accessibility and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at all stages of the electoral cycle aimed at facilitating the exercise of the rights to vote, to vote in private and to be assisted by an assistant of one's own choice. It is also concerned about the low number of persons with disabilities running for or holding elected public office.

**61. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, take appropriate measures to secure accessibility for persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of impairment, repeal provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities to vote, and ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation to guarantee the possibility of and right to universal and secret suffrage.**

## Armenia

51. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities do not participate in electoral processes on an equal basis with others, as a result of inaccessible polling stations and the lack of support services and election-related information in accessible formats. It is also concerned about the low rates of participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making.

**52. The Committee recommends that the State party take the legal and other measures necessary to enable the political and public participation of all persons with disabilities, including with respect to their right to vote and stand for elections, ensure that voting procedures, facilities and materials are accessible for all persons with disabilities and promote the participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women, in political life and public decision-making.**

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

52. The Committee is concerned at the exclusion of persons with disabilities from public life, especially women with disabilities, as well as at the lack of legislation on effective and transparent measures for providing accessible voting materials and information.

**53. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the electoral law(s) and the rules of procedure relevant to the Central Election Commission to ensure equality of participation for persons with disabilities in the electoral process, as well as allowing persons deprived of legal capacity to vote, allowing unhindered physical access to voting, putting in place secure mechanisms to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, and ensuring the availability of other electoral materials and information in accessible formats in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.**

## Canada

51. The Committee observes that the State party and different provinces have developed programmes and strategies to facilitate the right to vote of persons with disabilities. However, it notes that those measures do not specifically include persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

**52. The Committee recommends that the State party set up measures to facilitate and ensure access to the election process for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including through easy-read information on electoral campaigns and other accessible multimedia material, including tutorials on how to vote, to support participation in political life by all persons with disabilities.**

## Cyprus

57. The Committee is deeply concerned that persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are not adequately included, supported and trained to exercise their right to vote and stand for election, with some also being legally deprived of those rights. The Committee is furthermore concerned about the absence of data regarding the effective exercise of these rights by persons with disabilities.

**58. The Committee recommends that the State party expeditiously take legislative amendments to guarantee to all persons with disabilities the right to vote and to stand for election and to collect reliable and disaggregated data regarding their exercise of those rights.**

## Honduras

61. Preocupa al Comité que la declaratoria de interdicción sea impedimento para que una persona con discapacidad pueda ejercer su derecho al voto, así como el bajo número de personas con discapacidad que participan en la vida política y pública, principalmente mujeres, afrohondureños e indígenas. Preocupa también al Comité la falta de accesibilidad de los centros de votación, así como de materiales de voto para las personas con discapacidad.

**62. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte las medidas necesarias para garantizar que no se prive del derecho al voto y a la participación en la vida política y pública a ninguna persona por razón de discapacidad o por limitaciones en su capacidad jurídica y que aumente sus esfuerzos para promover a las personas con discapacidad, especialmente con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial, en los cargos electivos y los cargos públicos. También le recomienda que intensifique sus esfuerzos por garantizar que sus procedimientos, instalaciones y materiales electorales sean plenamente accesibles para las personas con discapacidad tanto en las zonas urbanas como en las rurales. Asimismo, le recomienda que adopte las medidas legislativas necesarias para garantizar que, cuando sea necesario y a petición de ellas, se permita que una persona de su elección les preste asistencia para votar. También le recomienda que todos los colegios electorales cuenten con suficientes papeletas accesibles, para garantizar el voto asistido y secreto.**

## Iran (Islamic Republic of)

54. The Committee is concerned about measures that deny the right of persons with sensory impairments, and persons with psychosocial and /or intellectual disabilities to stand as candidates to the Parliament. It is also concerned about the lack of information on accessibility of election materials and facilities.

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

**Repeal provisions from the Elections Act and other laws that deny the right to exercise civil and political rights based on impairment or restriction of legal capacity; and  
Ensure through legislative and other measures, accessibility of election materials and facilities, and that persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice when voting.**

## Jordan

55. The Committee is concerned that, reportedly, election materials are rarely accessible to blind persons or to persons with intellectual disabilities and polling stations are often not physically accessible. It is also concerned at the reported low number of persons with disabilities competing for public office.

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

**Ensure through legislative and other measures that persons with disabilities are able to access ballots, election materials and polling stations and that, when voting, they are allowed to have assistance from a person of their own choice;**

**Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, especially persons with sensory and intellectual disabilities, in civic and political processes.**

## Republic of Moldova

52. The Committee is concerned that:

The rights of persons with disabilities under guardianship to vote and be elected remain restricted by law;

Electoral processes, facilities and materials are not accessible; <sup>[SEP]</sup>

The rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities in <sup>[SEP]</sup>political life and public decision-making are extremely low.

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

**Take the legal and other measures, including consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities, necessary to enable the political and public participation of persons with disabilities;**

**Ensure that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to use for all persons with disabilities;**

**Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making.**

## Bolivia

65. The Committee notes with concern that persons who have been declared legally unfit cannot exercise their right to vote or to be elected and that they are not registered on the electoral roll.

**66. The Committee urges the State party to repeal the provisions that limit the right to vote on grounds of legal capacity and to adopt the necessary legal measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, especially with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, are registered in the electoral roll and may exercise their right to vote and stand as candidates for elected office.**

## Colombia

64. The Committee is concerned about the restrictions on the political participation of persons with disabilities, in particular that persons for whom a declaration of judicial interdiction has been issued cannot exercise their right to vote, and that accessibility is not ensured in elections.

**65. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, including the repeal of legislation, in order to:**

**Ensure the right to vote and participate in political life to all persons with disabilities, including those whose legal capacity is legally restricted owing to interdiction procedures;**

**Provide for the accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials in urban and rural areas alike;**

**Ensure the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in public life, including in the referendum on the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Long-lasting Peace, and make available promotional and informational materials in accessible formats.**

## Ethiopia

63. The Committee is concerned that restriction to the right to vote of “notoriously insane persons” is possible under law. It is further concerned that persons with disabilities are not guaranteed support to exercise their right to vote in law and in practice.

**64. The Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative and other measures to guarantee the political rights of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with**

**psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, including by removing any restrictions on the exercise of political rights, in law or in practice.**

## Guatemala

67. The Committee is concerned by the fact that some persons with disabilities, especially those deprived of their legal capacity, those living in mental health facilities and those belonging to indigenous communities, are unable to vote and that voting procedures are not accessible. It is also concerned that ballot papers in Braille are not currently available in polling stations where they are needed and that the right to vote by secret ballot is not guaranteed.

**68. The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities are able to exercise their right to vote and to stand for election on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of accessible facilities and means of communication, in both urban and rural areas. The Committee also recommends providing a sufficient number of ballot papers in Braille in all polling stations, in order to guarantee the right to vote by secret ballot.**

## Italy

73. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual disabilities and/or psychosocial disabilities do not receive adequate support in order to exercise their right to vote, and that article 48 of the Constitution, which restricts the right to vote based on “civil incapacity”, is inconsistent with the Convention. The Committee is concerned about the inability of persons with disabilities to vote wherever they choose due to legal restrictions imposed on them. It is also concerned that the regulation on assistance for persons with disabilities in order to cast their vote is not consistent with the Convention.

**74. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal article 48 of the Constitution and provide support and facilitation services to ensure all persons with disabilities can exercise their right to vote, including persons with intellectual disabilities and/or psychosocial disabilities. It also recommends that the State party repeal law No. 62/04, which restricts persons with disabilities to vote at polling stations of their choice. It further recommends that the State party harmonize its regulatory framework on assistance for persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote in compliance with the Convention.**

## United Arab Emirates

53. The Committee is concerned:

That article 70 (3) of the Constitution and articles 85 and 86 of the Civil Code deny the right to exercise civil and political rights, including the right to vote and stand for election, to persons deemed incompetent by reason of “imbecility or insanity” or restricted in the exercise of their legal capacity;

That legislation on voter assistance provisions for persons with disabilities violates the secrecy of voting;

About the lack of information on measures taken to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in civic and political processes.

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

**Repeal article 70 (3) of the Constitution and provisions of the Civil Code and other laws that deny the right to exercise civil and political rights on the basis of disability or restriction of legal capacity;**

**Ensure, through legislative and other measures, accessibility to ballots, election materials and polling stations and also ensure that, when voting, persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice;**

**Take measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in civic and political processes.**

## Uruguay

61. Preocupa al Comité que la declaratoria de interdicción sea impedimento para que una persona con discapacidad pueda ejercer su derecho al voto así como el bajo número de personas con discapacidad que participan en la vida política y pública, principalmente mujeres. Preocupa también al Comité la falta de accesibilidad de materiales y locales de voto para las personas con discapacidad.

**62. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte las medidas necesarias para garantizar que no se prive del derecho al voto y a la participación en la vida política y pública a ninguna persona por razón de un impedimento o por limitaciones en su capacidad jurídica y que aumente sus esfuerzos para promover a las personas con discapacidad en los cargos electivos y el servicio público. También le recomienda que intensifique sus esfuerzos por garantizar que sus procedimientos, el entorno físico, instalaciones y materiales electorales sean plenamente accesibles para las personas con discapacidad.**

## Chile

61. Al Comité le preocupa que la declaratoria de interdicción sea impedimento para que una persona con discapacidad pueda ejercer su derecho al voto y a la participación política.

**62. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte la revisión del registro electoral para garantizar que no se prive del derecho al voto a ninguna persona por razón de un impedimento o por limitaciones en su capacidad jurídica.**

## Lithuania

57. The Committee is concerned that:

The Constitution denies persons with disabilities the right to vote and stand for election if they have been declared legally incapable;

There is lack of reliable statistical information on the number of persons with disabilities who have been removed from the electoral register on grounds of disability;

Current laws on election do not allow autonomous, free and secret participation by all persons with disabilities in the electoral process.

**58. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities:**

**Repeal provisions in the law and the Constitution denying the right of persons with disabilities to vote and stand for election, including by eliminating the possibility of declaring persons with disabilities legally incapable on the ground of disability;**

**Restore voting rights to all people with disabilities who are excluded from the national voter registry;**

**Collect reliable and disaggregated statistics and data on the political participation of persons with disabilities as voters and as candidates for election;**

**Expedite the parliamentary approval of election laws to ensure the legally enforceable right of persons with disabilities to vote and have access to, among others, accessible ballots, election materials and polling stations, and the provision of freely chosen, adequate and necessary assistance in order to facilitate voting by all persons, regardless of impairment.**

## Portugal

54. The Committee is extremely concerned that in the State party there are persons with disabilities, and especially those who have been deprived of their legal capacity or who live in psychiatric institutions, who are deprived of exercising their right to vote or are prevented from exercising this right in elections, and that electoral processes, including political campaigns, are not accessible. It is also concerned about the existence of internal regulations that may require a person with disabilities to present a medical document proving his/her capacity to vote, if the person in charge of the polling station believes that he/she demonstrates "notorious mental incapacity".

55. The Committee recommends that the State party, in partnership with organisations of persons with disabilities, take necessary measures so that persons with all types of disabilities, including those who are subjected to guardianship or confined to psychiatric institutions, may exercise their right to vote and to stand as candidates under the same conditions as others, among other things, by providing accessible facilities and means of communication .

## Serbia

59. The Committee is concerned at the exclusion of persons with disabilities from public life, especially women with disabilities and Roma persons with disabilities.

**60. The Committee recommends the State party increase efforts to include persons with disabilities in positions of elected representation and public office. It also recommends the State party to ensure that upcoming elections are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, including voting facilities and campaign materials.**

## Slovakia

77. The Committee notes with deep concern that all citizens with disabilities are not able to fully exercise their right to vote and stand for election.

78. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal sections 4 (c) and 6 (c) of the Elections Act and provide for an accessible electoral system to enable all persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote, including by electronic means, and their right to stand for election.

## Thailand

59. The Committee is concerned about restrictions on the right of persons with disabilities to vote and stand for election and the lack of measures to ensure the secrecy of their vote. It is also concerned about the lack of information on accessible formats of voting procedures.

**60. The Committee recommends that the State party revise all laws that limit the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life in order to enable all persons with disabilities to vote and to stand for election, including by restoring legal capacity as required, and to ensure that all stages of an election are made fully accessible, including the political campaigns and their materials and the act of voting, including with respect to the secrecy of voting.**

## Uganda

56. The Committee is concerned about the restrictions in the Constitution and the electoral law that prevent persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities from standing for election, thus discriminating against them; it is also concerned about the inaccessibility of the voting environment, the absence of electoral materials in accessible formats and the lack of secrecy in the voting process for persons with disabilities.

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

**Repeal discriminatory legal provisions that restrict persons with disabilities from exercising their right to stand for election;**

**Provide voter education and awareness to persons with disabilities and adopt measures to ensure that the electoral process is accessible to voters with disabilities including voter registration, accessible polling centres and materials and assistance to vote from persons of their choice;**

Inform persons with disabilities about their right to vote and provide financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities to conduct the election processes of persons with disabilities in a transparent manner.

## Brazil

52. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities under interdiction are discriminated against in relation to their right to vote. The Committee is also concerned that many polling places are not accessible to persons with disabilities, and that voting information is not provided in all accessible formats.

**53. The Committee, recalling its views in communication No. 4/2011 (Zsolt Bujdosó and five others v. Hungary) that legislative restrictions on the right to vote of persons with disabilities whose legal capacity was restricted pursuant to guardianship breached article 29 of the Convention, urges the State party to remove legal restrictions and immediately restore the right to vote for persons deprived of legal capacity through interdiction. The Committee also recommends the State party to increase its efforts to ensure that voting procedures, facilities and materials are fully accessible to persons with disabilities.**

## European Union

68. The Committee notes with deep concern that across the European Union persons with disabilities, especially those deprived of their legal capacity or residing in institutions, cannot exercise their right to vote in elections, and participation in elections is not fully accessible.

**69. The Committee recommends that the European Union take measures, in cooperation with its Member States and representative organisations of persons with disabilities, to enable all persons with all types of disabilities including those under guardianship, to enjoy their right to vote and stand for elections, including by the provision of accessible communication and facilities.**

## Gabon

62. The Committee is concerned that the Electoral Code contains restrictions on the right of persons with disabilities to vote, including those subjected to “interdiction” or any other kind of deprivation of legal capacity. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about physical and informational barriers in the voting process.

**63. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the relevant provisions in the Electoral Code in order to enable all persons with disabilities to vote, restoring legal capacity as required, and to ensure that all stages of elections are made fully accessible, including in political campaigns and their materials, the act of voting and guaranteeing secrecy of voting.**

## Kenya

51. The Committee is concerned about the restrictions in the right to vote and stand for elections of persons with disabilities and the lack of measures to ensure the secret vote. It is also concerned about the lack of information on accessible information on voting procedures.

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

**Repeal constitutional provisions that restrict the right of persons with disabilities to be elected as members of Parliament and to vote on equal basis with others; and**

**Guarantee full accessibility to polling stations throughout the country in election processes and design and develop election-related information on accessible formats for persons with disabilities.**

## Mauritius

39. The Committee is concerned that articles 34 (1) and 43 of the Constitution as well as some electoral rules and regulations limit the rights of persons with disabilities to vote and be elected.

**40. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the discriminatory provision contained in articles 34 (1) and 43 of the Constitution as well as related regulations and ensure that all persons with disabilities enjoy their rights to vote and to be elected.**

## Qatar

51. The Committee is concerned that legislation on voter assistance provisions for persons with disabilities violates the secrecy of vote.

**52. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials and polling stations and that when voting, persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice.**

## Ukraine

54. The Committee is concerned that the State party's legislation prevents citizens with disabilities whose legal capacity has been restricted from fully exercising their right to vote. The Committee is also concerned that election materials are not provided in formats accessible to persons with visual impairments and deaf persons.

**55. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the relevant laws so that all persons with disabilities can enjoy the right to vote and stand for election regardless of guardianship or other regimes. It also recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials, and of polling stations.**

## Cook Islands

51. The Committee is concerned that the Electoral Act both denies the right to vote and stand for election to some groups of persons with disabilities, and fails to systematically protect the right to vote in private at polling stations. It is further concerned that elections are not accessible to persons with disabilities.

**52. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal provisions of the Electoral Act 2004 to ensure that all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their disability, can vote in private at polling stations, and stand for election. The Committee further recommends to ensure persons with disabilities access to polling booths, supply tools and instruments such as Braille voting sheets, make the ballot papers available to persons with disabilities with accessible technology, have available sign language interpreters so that persons with disabilities can vote in all elections; independently and secretly and if needed with a support person of their own choice.**

## Croatia

45. The Committee is concerned that the electoral process is not yet fully accessible to all persons with disabilities. Furthermore it is concerned about the still low number of persons with disabilities in executive and representative public bodies.

**46. The Committee recommends that measures be taken to make the electoral process fully accessible to all persons with disabilities and to facilitate participation of persons with disabilities in representative and executive bodies.**

## Czech Republic

56. The Committee is concerned that under the new Civil Code and the election legislation persons with disabilities with restricted legal capacity may be denied the right to vote or to stand for election, or vote at referendums. The Committee is also concerned that election materials are reportedly rarely accessible to blind persons or to persons with intellectual

disabilities, that polling stations are often not physically accessible, that ballots may not be accessible to blind persons.

**57. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the relevant laws so that all persons with disabilities can enjoy the right to vote and stand for election regardless of guardianship or other regimes. It also recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials, and of polling stations.**

## Dominican Republic

54. Preocupa al Comité la poca accesibilidad en centros de votación en el Estado parte, y en la información sobre los procesos electorales dirigida a las personas con discapacidad.

**55. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte realizar consultas vinculantes a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en el diseño y desarrollo de los procesos electorales, desde la accesibilidad en la información y comunicación, física y durante el sufragio. También recomienda incluir a las personas con discapacidad dentro de la legislación relativa a los derechos electorales y fomentar la participación política de personas con discapacidad, en todos los niveles de participación, desde las organizaciones civiles y partidos políticos hasta la promoción de candidaturas de elección popular.**

## Germany

53. The Committee is concerned about exclusion of persons with disabilities from electoral rights stipulated in Section 13 No. 2 and No. 3 of the Federal Electoral Act (BWG) and equivalent Länder legislation as well as practical barriers preventing persons with disabilities from exercising the right to vote on an equal basis with others.

**54. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all laws and regulations that deprive persons with disabilities of the right to vote, reduce barriers and put in place appropriate support mechanisms.**

## Mongolia

45. While noting that the State party recognizes inadequacies in ensuring the full participation persons with disabilities in political and public life, the Committee is concerned about reports that the State party's "Great Khural's Election Law" neither contains specific references to persons with disabilities nor assistive or support measures to accommodate persons with visual, hearing or mobility impairments.

**46. The Committee recommends the State party repeal legal provisions which deny or restrict the right to vote based on disability and develop appropriate legal measures to ensure persons with disabilities can fully participate in elections and public life as citizens, voters and/or candidates.**

## Turkmenistan

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of participation of persons with disabilities as candidates in elections. It is further concerned about the exclusion of persons who are under guardianship from the right to vote.

**50. The Committee recommends that the State party make sure that all restrictions of the right to vote of persons with disabilities are removed, immediately by restoring the right to vote for persons deprived of legal capacity and by providing full accessibility and information in relation to their right to vote. Similarly, the State party should facilitate assistance for persons with disabilities to be candidates in national as well as local elections.**

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## New Zealand

61. The Committee notes that under the Electoral Act 1992, persons who are blind or vision-impaired may receive the assistance of an official to cast their vote in an election.

**62. The Committee recommends that the State party consider the introduction of accessible electronic voting to enable persons with disabilities to cast their votes in a truly secret manner.**

## Denmark

60. The Committee is concerned that under the Constitution, the Parliamentary Elections Act and other electoral laws, and the Guardianship Act (section 6), persons under guardianship are not allowed to vote or to stand for election in parliamentary, municipal, regional or European Parliament elections, or referendums. The Committee is also concerned that election materials are reportedly rarely accessible to blind persons or to persons with learning and intellectual disabilities, that polling stations are often not physically accessible, that ballots may not be accessible to blind persons, and that persons under guardianship may not be able to freely choose the kind of voting assistance that they would wish to use.

**61. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the relevant laws, including the Parliamentary Elections Act and other laws governing municipal, regional and European Parliament elections, so that all persons with disabilities can enjoy the right to vote and stand for election regardless of guardianship or other regimes. It also recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials, and of polling stations, and that it ensure that freely chosen, adequate and necessary assistance is provided in order to facilitate voting by all persons.**

## Republic of Korea

55. The Committee is concerned that many polling booths are not fully accessible to persons with disabilities and that voting information is not provided to persons with disabilities in consideration of the various types of disabilities. It is also concerned about the low level of participation of persons with disabilities in political activities and as candidates in elections due to the barriers that they continue to face in that regard. It is also concerned that persons declared incompetent are denied the right to vote and stand for elections.

**56. The Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts to ensure that voting is fully accessible to all persons, irrespective of disability, and that voting information is provided in all accessible formats. It further recommends that the State party take specific measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in elected bodies. It also recommends that the State party repeal provisions denying the right to vote and stand for elections and provide the right to vote and stand for elections regardless of type of disability.**

## Mexico

55. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are denied the right to vote and that voting procedures, facilities and materials are not accessible.

**56. The Committee urges the State party to amend the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures to give all persons with disabilities the right to vote. It further recommends that the State party ensure the accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials in urban and rural areas alike.**

## Sweden

51. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on accessibility and accommodation for persons with disabilities, during all stages of the electoral cycle,

facilitating their exercise of the right to vote, and at the low number of persons with **disabilities running for or holding public office.**

**52. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that voter education through mass media is made accessible, that information about elections is provided in accessible formats, that electoral campaigns are made fully accessible, that support at polling stations is made available, that the mechanisms put in place to facilitate voting assistance are developed in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities to suit their needs, and that polling assistants are trained to accommodate voters. It also recommends that the State party ensure that all persons with disabilities who are elected to a public position are provided with all required support, including personal assistants.**

## Azerbaijan

44. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the participation of persons with disabilities as candidates in elections and their representation in elected and appointed bodies. The Committee is further concerned about the exclusion of the right to vote of persons with disabilities who are under guardianship.

**45. The Committee urges the State party to remove restrictions and immediately restore the right to vote for persons deprived of legal capacity and to continue to improve its efforts to ensure that voting is fully accessible to all persons, irrespective of disability, and that voting information is provided in all accessible formats. It further recommends the State party to take specific measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in elected bodies. In this regard, the State party should provide information in its next periodic report on the representation of persons with disabilities in all elected and appointed bodies of the State party.**

## Costa Rica

59. The Committee regrets that the State party has denied the right to vote to persons with disabilities declared legally incompetent. It is also concerned about the absence of information concerning persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities who have been removed from the electoral register on grounds of their disability. It is also concerned at the fact that no Costa Rican sign language interpretation was provided for information on the 2014 elections.

**60. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately restore the right to vote of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. It further calls for the right to vote to be recognized to all persons with disabilities, including those who require more extensive assistance, ensuring that procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use. It also recommends that information on elections should be provided in accessible formats, including using Costa Rican sign language.**

## Australia

51. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, are automatically excluded from the electoral roll. It is further concerned that persons with disabilities face significant barriers in the voting process.

**52. The Committee recommends that the State party enacts legislation restoring the presumption of the capacity of persons with disabilities to vote and exercise choice; and to ensure that all aspects of voting in an election are made accessible to all citizens with a disability.**

## Austria

48. The Committee commends the State party for its upholding of article 29 of the Convention by allowing all persons to vote including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. However, it does appear that many polling booths are not fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

**49. The Committee recommends that more work be done to ensure that voting is fully accessible to all persons, irrespective of disability, and that voting information is provided in all accessible formats.**

## El Salvador

59. The Committee regrets that the Electoral Code prevents persons with psychosocial or intellectual impairments from exercising their right to run for municipal office. The Committee notes with concern that there are no mechanisms in place to ensure that persons with disabilities can vote in secret and that measures to ensure the accessibility of polling centres are inadequate.

**60. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the provisions limiting the right to vote of persons with disabilities and adopt measures to ensure that such persons can run for public office. The Committee encourages the State party to increase opportunities for the political and social participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.**

## Paraguay

69. The Committee notes with concern the continued application in the State party of Act No. 834 on the Electoral Code, which places restrictions on deaf persons' right to vote. It also regrets the lack of information on the number of persons with disabilities who are not allowed to vote. It also regrets that disabled persons' organizations were not consulted on the adoption of a mechanism for secret voting and universal suffrage for persons with visual impairments, and that there are no measures to promote the right of persons with disabilities to stand as candidates for elected office.

**70. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities of any kind to vote and that, in consultation with disabled persons' organizations, it adopt measures to guarantee the right of universal, secret suffrage.**

## Argentina

47. The Committee would like to express its recognition of the fact that the State party has repealed the provisions in its Electoral Code that barred deaf-mute persons who do not know how to communicate in writing and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities who have been interned in public institutions from exercising their right to vote. Nevertheless, the Committee remains concerned by:

The fact that the amendments to the Electoral Code have not included the elimination of the provision whereby persons who have been declared legally incompetent by a court of law are barred from exercising their right to vote;

The lack of appropriate measures for ensuring that institutionalized persons with disabilities have access to the polls and can leave the institutions in question in order to vote.

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

**Review the Electoral Code and introduce the necessary amendments to bring it into line with the standards set forth in the Convention, particularly with respect to legal capacity and the exercise of the right to vote on an equal basis;**

**Pursue its efforts to ensure that institutionalized persons with disabilities have access to the polls by, for example, devising and implementing a national plan for ensuring that**

people are able to exercise their right to participation in political life (CRPD/C/ARG/Q/1/Add.1, para. 249) or other alternative solutions.

## China

45. The Committee is concerned with article 26 of the Election Law, which excludes citizens with intellectual and psychosocial impairments from the voting process.

**46. The Committee recommends the state party to revise article 26 of the Election Law to ensure that all persons with disabilities have the right to vote on an equal basis with others.**

## Hong-Kong

81. The Committee is concerned about the low number of persons with disabilities holding public offices and the inaccessibility of some polling stations for voters with disabilities.

**82. The Committee urges Hong Kong, China, to enhance the active participation of persons with disabilities in politics through affirmative action and ensure the accessibility of all voting stations.**

## Hungary

45. The Committee is very concerned about the provision in the State party's new Fundamental Law which permits a judge to remove the right to vote from those with "limited mental ability", and that legislation allows for the right to vote of persons with intellectual or psycho-social disabilities to be restricted if the person concerned has been deprived of his or her legal capacity.

**46. The Committee recommends that all relevant legislation be reviewed to ensure that all persons with disabilities regardless of their impairment, legal status or place of residence have a right to vote, and that they can participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others.**

## Peru

44. The Committee commends the State party for issuing a resolution in October 2011 that nullified previous policies excluding persons with certain psychosocial and intellectual disabilities from the electoral rolls, as well as for updating the National Identity and Civil Status Registry (RENIEC) accordingly. However, the Committee remains concerned at:

The fact that persons with disabilities, who have been judicially interdicted, remain ineligible to vote and that the names of those excluded from the national voter registry have not yet been fully restored;

The lack of information on measures taken in order to inform the persons with disabilities on the above-mentioned developments and prevent such violations from happening in the future;

Numerous cases of persons in institutions who have not been able to exercise their right to vote because they lack identity documents or because of the interdiction to leave the institution, absence of special assistance or the distance from the polling station.

**45. The Committee recommends that the State party**

**Restore voting rights to all people with disabilities who are excluded from the national voter registry, including people with disabilities subject to judicial interdiction;**

**Reach out to vulnerable individuals and protect people with disabilities from such violations in the future, including through relevant training.**

**Guarantee the right to vote of people with disabilities in institutions, by ensuring that they are physically permitted to go to assigned polling stations and have the support required to do so, or to permit alternative options.**

## Spain

47. The Committee is concerned that the right to vote of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities can be restricted if the person concerned has been deprived of his or her legal capacity, or has been placed in an institution. It is further concerned that the deprivation of this right appears to be the rule and not the exception. It regrets the lack of information on standards of evidence or grounds, and criteria used by judges when depriving persons of their right to vote. It notes with concern the number of persons with disabilities denied their right to vote.

**48. The Committee recommends that all relevant legislation be reviewed to ensure that all persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairment, legal status or place of residence, have the right to vote and participate in public life on an equal basis with others. The Committee requests the State party to amend article 3 of Organic Act 5/1985, which allows the denial of the right to vote based on individualized decisions taken by a judge. The amendment should ensure that all persons with disabilities have the right to vote. Furthermore, it is recommended that all persons with disabilities who are elected to a public position are provided with all required support, including personal assistants.**

## Tunisia

35. The Committee recommends the urgent adoption of legislative measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons who are currently under guardianship or trusteeship, can exercise their right to vote and participate in public life, on an equal basis with others.