



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 9 CRPD
(Accessibility)*

October 2022

Article 9 - Accessibility

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, *inter alia*:

- a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
- b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:

- a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
- d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;
- e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;
- f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;
- g) To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;
- h) To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

**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
Myanmar
Cuba
Niger
Norway
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Spain
Turkey
Vanuatu
Algeria
Bulgaria
Malta
Philippines
Poland
South Africa
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Haiti
Nepal
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
Serbia
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
Belgium
Ecuador
Mexico
Sweden
Azerbaijan
Costa Rica
Australia
Austria
El Salvador
Paraguay
Argentina
China
Hong-Kong
Hungary
Peru
Spain

Tunisia

Bangladesh

19. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a concrete implementation strategy to further the guidelines adopted on accessibility to public buildings, the physical environment and information and communication technologies and systems, public and private websites and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, including lack of guidelines in the transportation sector, particularly in the rural areas, and especially for refugees;

(b) The lack of inclusion of representative organisations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of accessibility standards in relation to the built environment, transportation, information and communications technologies and systems, and other facilities and services open to the public.

20. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and Goals 9 and 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop and implement a national strategy for accessibility, to facilitate access for persons with disabilities to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology and systems, and other facilities and services, open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas, including for refugees;

(b) Ensure effective implementation of existing policies and rules, particularly the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2013, and develop a monitoring mechanism to measure progress, with the full and effective participation and consultation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities.

China

22. The Committee notes that the State is preparing the adoption of a Law on Construction of Barrier-Free Environments. It is concerned that organizations of persons with disabilities have not been sufficiently involved in developing a comprehensive accessibility strategy to embed universal design standards across all domains including public transport, buildings and facilities, new and existing housing, public spaces, services, construction, information, communication, and digital access, as well as to the natural environment, including green spaces open to the public, in all rural and urban areas.

23. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Seek to consult persons with various impairments and their representative organizations before adopting the Law on Construction of Barrier-Free Environments, with a view to establish inclusive legally binding accessibility standards;

(b) Ensure that the Law on Construction of Barrier-Free Environments incorporates and is based on the principle of universal design, as required by the Convention (art. 4, para. 1 (f));

(c) Seek to involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the evaluating of accessibility of roads, public buildings, public transport facilities, residential buildings and residential areas throughout the country, in accordance with the Regulations on Construction of Barrier-Free Environments (2012).

Indonesia

18. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of comprehensive national accessibility legislation and strategy across all levels of government, includes accessibility standards, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and that covers all areas, including the physical and built environment, housing, transportation, information and communications technology;

(b) The lack of implementation of Regulation 42/2020 concerning Accessibility to Settlements, Public Services, and Protection from Disasters for Persons with Disabilities;

(c) The use for public information of the SIBI sign language, which is not well understood by the Deaf community, many of whom prefer and use BISINDO.

19. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt comprehensive national accessibility legislation and strategy across all levels of government that includes accessibility standards, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in all areas, including the physical and built environment, housing, transportation, information and communications technology, and facilities and services open to the public, with necessary budget allocations;

(b) Ensure the effective implementation of regulation 42/2020 on Accessibility to Settlements, Public Services, and Protection from Disasters for Persons with Disabilities.

(c) Closely consult and actively involve the Indonesian Deaf community to strengthen the accessibility of public information through the use of preferred sign languages, including BISINDO.

Japan

21. The Committee notes with concern the:

(a) Limited strategies to harmonize accessibility obligations at all levels to embed universal design standards and to encompass all domains;

(b) Little progress in ensuring the accessibility to information and the accessibility of schools, public transportation, apartments, and small-scale shops, in particular, outside major cities;

(c) Insufficient awareness-raising and training for architects, designers, and engineers concerning accessibility standards and the universal design under the Convention.

22. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement an action plan and accessibility strategy, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to harmonize accessibility across all levels of government, to embed universal design standards, and ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, transportation, information and communication, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, including those outside major cities;

(b) Enhance continuous capacity-building programmes on universal design and accessibility standards for architects, designers, engineers, and programmers.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

16. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Persons with disabilities face barriers to access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in particular, in rural areas;

(b) The relevant legislation does not include clear accessibility standards, the reference to the universal design and sanctions for non-compliance;

(c) The Lao sign language is yet to be officially recognized, which limits social interactions for persons who are deaf.

17. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and the Sustainable Development Goal 11, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement an action plan and strategy to identify existing barriers to accessibility and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to remove those barriers to ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, transportation, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas;

(b) Revise relevant legislation, particularly the Law No.05 on Construction, the Law No.24 on Land Transportation, and the Law No.01 on Media to establish and mainstream accessibility standards and the universal design, a system of sanctions for non-compliance, and complaints mechanisms for persons with disabilities;

(c) Officially recognize Lao sign language and develop training programmes and employment incentives to strengthen interpreter and trainer capacity.

New Zealand

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The slow progress in implementing the Building Act 2004, which prolongs inaccessibility to public buildings and the progressive upgrade of existing buildings;

(b) Continued barriers experienced by persons with disabilities in accessing the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems;

(c) The lack of affordable and accessible housing and the modest target of 15% accessibility for new build public housing;

(d) Reports from organisations of persons with disabilities that the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill, currently before Parliament does not contain enforcement mechanisms, may not cover private entities or local government, lacks standard-setting and decision-making bodies, and lacks obligations to make tangible changes within fixed time frames.

16. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite implementation of the Building Act 2004 and commit to targets and timeframes for implementation measures;

(b) Adopt and implement an accessibility strategy underpinned by the principle of universal design to eliminate existing access barriers, in close consultation with and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups, such as persons of small stature;

(c) Adopt the principle of universal design and commit to a target of 100% accessibility for new build public housing and introduce mandatory accessibility requirements for new housing constructed by the private sector;

(d) Establish a co-design and co-production process with organisations of persons with disabilities to address concerns about the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill, following release of the Select Committee's report.

Republic of Korea

19. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That despite the recent amendment to the Act on the Guarantee of Convenience Promotion of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, Pregnant Women and Nursing Mothers, there are still some exemptions related to the size of buildings and year of construction, which continues to prevent full accessibility of public buildings;

(b) The lack of comprehensive and effective measures to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including the lack of information and communication technologies and systems;

(c) That the amendment of the Act on Promotion of the Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons to improve special needs of transportation in January 2022 excludes inter-city buses, express buses and wide-area buses and the insufficient provision of information, including bus number and route as well as on-board guidance, impeding the use of buses by persons with visual and hearing disabilities;

(d) The barriers in the digital work environment that prevent access for persons with disabilities to information and communication, as the obligation to guarantee accessibility is limited to national and public institutions.

20. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to Sustainable Development Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the national legislation to include mandatory rules in ensuring accessibility of all buildings and structures, regardless of their size, capacity and date of construction;

- (b) **Adopt a national accessibility strategy that includes all areas described in the Convention, and strengthen its mechanisms for monitoring accessibility at the municipal level, including by establishing a system of sanctions for non-compliance;**
- (c) **Increase the number of wheelchair-accessible buses in the public transportation system, in particular with regard to inter-city buses, express buses and wide-area buses, and ensure information including bus numbers and routes as well as on-board guidance are in accessible formats; improve the environment and public space to make them safe and accessible for persons with different disabilities;**
- (d) **Ensure universal access to digital technology for all persons with disabilities, in particular for persons with visual impairments, both in educational facilities and at home, in public and private websites and mobile applications.**

Singapore

17. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of comprehensive and effective measures, including legislation, to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including the lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy covering all areas, in particular physical access, access to public transportation, accessible information and communications technologies, and other access to information technologies;
- (b) The insufficient services provided by the Sign Language Interpreter system, and the limited availability of speech to text technologies.

18. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Adopt a national accessibility strategy, with concrete timeframes, that includes all areas covered by the Convention, including public transportation, and among others, the use of guide dogs and other service animals, and ensure the allocation of sufficient resources, and mechanisms for monitoring and redress;**
- (b) **Adopt legislation, regulations, policies and programmes to ensure accessibility and affordability of Sign Language Interpreting services, speech to text technologies and other information technologies.**

Hungary

18. The Committee notes with concern the lack of:

- (a) A comprehensive strategy at the national level for developing accessible built environments, public services, public transportation, information and communication in the State party, particularly in rural areas and small towns;
- (b) Progress in implementing the accessibility of built environments, public services, including automated teller machines (ATMs) for persons with visual impairment, public transportation, information and communication for persons with disabilities and the removal of accessibility deadlines by amending the Act on Passenger Transport services in 2013.

19. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Adopt a comprehensive national strategy and implementation plan with clear time frames and adequate budget allocations for developing accessibility for built environments, public services, public transportation, information and communication in the State party to ensure the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities across the State party;**
- (b) **Review its regulation in the areas of built environments, public services, public transportation, information and communication, including the regulations on public procurement, and establish mandatory requirements and timelines for ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities, enforcement of such regulations, penalties for non-compliance and mechanisms for independent monitoring of the implementation of accessibility;**
- (c) **Ensure that accessibility standards take into consideration Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the**

websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 standard for all public websites;

(d) Complete the process of transposing Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services and the European Electronic Communications Code (Directive (EU) 2018/1972) into national legislation and regulations.

Jamaica

18. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy covering all areas, in particular physical access, accessible information and communications technology, and other digital access;

(b) That despite the enactment of the Building Act, 2018, in January 2019, the level of its implementation is low, and that many educational, health and paramedical institutions constructed prior to 2019 are not compliant with the Building Code;

(c) That persons with disabilities in rural areas face greater obstacles in gaining access to public transportation and built environments, as there are only a few operational wheelchair-accessible buses, which operate only in the capital and in the immediate environment within specified hours, and that there are open manholes, broken bridges and excavations left unprotected, which result in individual accidents to persons with physical and visual disabilities;

(d) The barriers in the digital work environment that prevent access for persons with disabilities to information and communication, including on government websites, in particular for persons with vision impairments.

19. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national accessibility strategy that includes all areas described in the Convention, and strengthen its mechanisms for monitoring accessibility at the municipal level, including by establishing a system of sanctions for non-compliance;

(b) Ensure the effective implementation of the Building Act, 2018, and bring educational, health and paramedical institutions, as well as other buildings in urban and rural areas, into line with accessibility standards;

(c) Increase the number of wheelchair-accessible buses in the public transportation system and extend these services to long-distance and rural areas' transportation needs, and improve the environment and public space in urban and rural areas to make them safe and accessible for persons with different disabilities;

(d) Ensure universal access to digital technology for all persons with disabilities, in particular for persons with visual impairments, both in educational facilities and at home.

Mexico

27. The Committee notes with concern that the State party's current legal framework on accessibility for persons with disabilities does not contain binding legal rules addressing all areas covered by article 9 of the Convention, including the respective processes, complaints procedures and evaluation mechanisms.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the existing General Law for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities on its compatibility with the Convention and on its application in practice;

(b) Enact binding laws guaranteeing accessibility in all areas covered by article 9 of the Convention, in keeping with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, ensuring direct application of such laws at all levels of government;

(c) Establish competences and procedures to implement accessibility laws, institute complaints and monitoring mechanisms, and define effective remedies in situations of non-compliance;

(d) Revise the existing national accessibility plan in light of the new laws on accessibility, and render it applicable to the physical environment, transport, information and communications, including information and communications systems and technologies, and other services and facilities open or provided to the public, in particular for persons with disabilities living in remote, rural and indigenous communities.

Switzerland

19. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy to harmonize accessibility obligations at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels, to embed universal design standards and to encompass all domains, including public transport, buildings, facilities, public spaces, services, and physical, information, communications and digital access, and including at the design and construction phases;

(b) The narrow scope of the Disability Discrimination Act, which sets a lower standard than that required under Convention obligations and which does not cover facilities and services provided to the public by private entities;

(c) That the increased application of European Union standards has established less stringent requirements for accessibility than those under the Convention, reducing the capacity of persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities to advocate the higher standard required under Convention obligations.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt an accessibility strategy, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to harmonize accessibility across all levels of government, to embed universal design standards and to ensure access to all domains;

(b) Amend the Disability Discrimination Act to extend its scope to cover all buildings irrespective of the need for renovation, all residential buildings regardless of the number of residential units, and all facilities and services that are open or provided to the public by private entities;

(c) Address the inconsistency between European Union accessibility standards, Swiss legislation on the equality of persons with disabilities and the State party's obligations under the Convention.

Venezuela

16. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive plan to ensure the accessibility of the physical environment, information, communications and transport;

(b) The lack of information on compliance with the regulations for the protection of the rights of users of telecommunications services, which imposes a duty on telecommunications service operators to make available terminal equipment suited to the needs of persons with different types of disabilities;

(c) The lack of data on the interpretation services provided by the National Accessible Communication Service to persons who are hard of hearing and deaf persons in public and private institutions;

(d) The lack of physical accessibility and accessible communications and information, and the lack of trained staff at hospitals to provide care during the pandemic.

17. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and bearing in mind Sustainable Development Goal 11, the Committee recommends that the State party, in coordination with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Develop a policy and comprehensive, broad-based plan for ensuring the accessibility of the physical environment, including public transport services in cities and provinces;

- (b) Ensure the accessibility of the physical environment, information and communications in facilities open to the public, with pamphlets being provided in accessible modes and means of communication such as Braille and other alternative modes and means;**
- (c) Monitor compliance with the regulations for the protection of the rights of users of telecommunications services and gather statistics on persons with disabilities who use those services;**
- (d) Monitor public services, such as health-care and judicial services, where interpretation in Venezuelan sign language is provided and introduce a registration system with disaggregated data on the number of sign language interpreters available, with the aim of ensuring the accessibility of information and public services;**
- (e) Collect and publish data on how persons with disabilities coped with the pandemic in terms of accessibility of the physical environment, information and communications.**

Djibouti

15. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The absence of regulations on accessibility standards and compliance mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions on accessibility under Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018), including complaint mechanisms available for persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy covering all areas, such as information and communications technology, to the physical environment, and public transport, including in rural areas, particularly for deaf persons, persons who are deafblind, persons with visual impairment, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and persons with other sensory impairments.

16. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legislative measures to set up accessibility standards, to establish a system of sanctions for non-compliance, and complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Adopt a national accessibility strategy that includes all areas described in the Convention, while paying particular attention to accessibility in rural areas and for deaf persons, persons who are deafblind, persons with visual impairment, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with other sensory impairments.**

France

19. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Legislation reducing thresholds concerning accessibility requirements of apartments in new housing facilities, and disparities in implementing accessibility requirements across regions in the State party;
- (b) The limited implementation of accessibility and universal design in public services hindering participation in the community of persons with disabilities, with particular impacts on autistic persons, persons with sensory impairments, with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) The delay in implementing plans on accessibility standards including the Programmed Accessibility Agenda, accessibility in public transportation, information and communications, and in facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- (d) Limited measures to facilitate movement and orientation in all facilities open to the public;
- (e) Barriers in the digital work environment preventing access for persons with disabilities to information and communication, including on government websites, and in relation to software.

20. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal provisions of the Law 2008-1021 of 23 November 2018 reducing the threshold of accessibility requirements for new housing and adopt a strategy, in consultation with**

- organizations of persons with disabilities, to ensure that accessibility standards for housing and accommodation are progressively enhanced with the aim of full accessibility;
- (b) Adopt accessibility strategies, and raise awareness about the concept of universal design for persons with disabilities;
 - (c) Reinforce mechanisms to make public transportation accessible to persons with disabilities;
 - (d) Ensure that accessibility plans include measures to provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in Easy Read as well as forms of live assistance and intermediaries, silent hours in public spaces, and others;
 - (e) Ensure universal access to digital technology for all persons with disabilities, including to business software and revise Decree No. 2019-768 of 2019 on accessibility to information for blind persons at government, public and private websites;
 - (f) Apply the Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, and the WCAG 2.0 standard at all public websites;
 - (g) Harmonise national legislation and regulations with the Directive 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services, and the European Electronic Communications Code (Directive (EU) 2018/1972).

Estonia

19. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy encompassing physical, information and communication, and digital access, and that mechanisms for monitoring accessibility have yet to be reinforced at the municipal level;
- (b) That persons with disabilities in rural areas face greater obstacles to access public transportation and physical environments;
- (c) The absence of accessibility standards within the e-Estonia system, and the underdeveloped accessibility to information communication and other services for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and persons with vision impairments.

20. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national accessibility strategy that includes all areas described in the Convention, and strengthen its monitoring mechanisms of accessibility at the municipal level, establishing a system of sanctions for non-compliance;
- (b) Review the Public Transport Act 2015, and the Building Code of 2015, and bring them into line with the Convention, recognising accessibility standards in urban and rural areas;
- (c) Ensure the accessibility standards within the e-Estonia system taking into consideration the Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, and the WCAG 2.1 standard at all public websites;
- (d) Take measures to transpose the Directive 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services, and the European Electronic Communications Code (Directive (EU) 2018/1972) into national legislation and regulations.

Albania

19. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive national action plan for the implementation of the Law on Inclusion and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and of the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 1074 (2015) on removing environmental and infrastructure barriers in providing public services;

(b) The lack of data on the application of administrative and financial sanctions in place for non-compliance with accessibility standards, including for older buildings open to the public and information and communications services in rural areas;

(c) The lack of information on the accessibility of electronic media, including social media.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9 (c), 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive action plan for the implementation of the Law on Inclusion and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities with sufficient budget, an efficient monitoring mechanism and benchmarks for the removal of barriers, with enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance;

(b) Put in place a mechanism to monitor compliance with accessibility standards in all areas covered by the Convention and impose sanctions in the event of non-compliance;

(c) Provide comprehensive information on the accessibility of electronic media, with special attention to social media.

Australia

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a national framework for reporting compliance with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002, the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 and the National Standards for Disability Services;

(b) The significant proportion of the existing built environment that is inaccessible and the lack of mandated national access requirements for housing in the National Construction Code;

(c) The lack of comprehensive and effective measures to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including the lack of information and communications technologies and systems.

18. In the light of article 9 of the Convention and its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party, taking into account goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Establish and enact a national framework for reporting compliance with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002, the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 and the National Standards for Disability Services;

(b) Amend the federal law by including mandatory rules on access for all new and extensively modified housing;

(c) Take the necessary legislative and policy measures, such as the development of public procurement criteria, to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including regarding information and communications technologies and systems, and ensure effective sanctions measures for non-compliance.

Ecuador

21. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a comprehensive plan for ensuring the accessibility of the physical environment and of information and communications and at the shortage of sign language interpreters for deaf persons.

22. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to Sustainable Development Goal 11, the Committee recommends that, in coordination with organizations of persons with disabilities, the State party:

(a) Establish a comprehensive policy and plan for ensuring the accessibility of the physical environment and transportation services, including interprovincial, intercantonal and inter-parish public transportation services;

(b) Ensure the accessibility of information and communications in facilities open to the public, with pamphlets being provided in accessible modes and means of communication such as Braille and other alternative modes and means;

(c) Introduce a registration system that will provide disaggregated data on the number of available sign language interpreters in order to ensure the accessibility of public information and services.

El Salvador

18. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The insufficient measures taken to improve physical accessibility and communication accessibility, including transport, resulting in a lack of accessible public transport in remote and rural areas, including the lack of training for transport operators and the limited sanctions for violations;

(b) The fact that the Salvadoran Technical Standard on Accessibility to the Physical Environment, Urbanism and Architecture is not aligned with the principles of the Convention.

19. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and taking into account Sustainable Development Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party establish a comprehensive monitoring mechanism to ensure strict implementation of accessibility standards and recommends that sanctions for non-compliance be increased and enforced. The Committee also recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase the number of transport routes that are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, and allocate adequate budget for equipping public transport with accessibility features;

(b) Develop, promulgate, and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines regarding the accessibility of facilities and services that are open to or provided to the public.

Greece

13. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The slow progress being made in the implementation of the existing legal framework on accessibility, including the delay in the adoption of the relevant secondary legislation, in particular the secondary legislation provided for under Laws No. 4030/2011 and No. 4067/2012 in relation to the accessibility study for the issuance of building permits and the adaptation of existing buildings. It is also concerned about the delay in the establishment of the necessary implementing mechanisms, in particular the accessibility committees provided for in Law No. 4495/2017;

(b) The absence of a national strategy on the implementation of accessibility standards governing the built environment, goods and services, including transport, media and information and communication services, in both the public and the private sectors.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party, in light of its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and taking into account Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11, particularly targets 11.2 and 11.7:

(a) Adopt the necessary legal and other measures, including the adoption of regulations and a comprehensive national action plan and long-term strategy on accessibility with sufficient budget allocations, concrete deadlines and an effective monitoring mechanism, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;

(b) Take the necessary measures to guarantee the accessibility of the built environment, goods and services, particularly the transport system in urban and rural areas, public and social media, and provide training to service providers, engineers, architects and urban planners on accessibility issues faced by persons with disabilities.

India

20. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of coordinated and cross-sectoral work and ownership of the Accessible India Campaign under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's flagship scheme;
- (b) The lack of accessibility requirements for goods and services in the Bureau of Indian Standards Act and under the "broader obligations principle" in the *Manual for Procurement of Goods 2017* of the Ministry of Finance;
- (c) The slow progress in improving the accessibility of transportation, the physical environment and information and communications technology, including government websites.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and taking account of Sustainable Development Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Goals:

- (a) Implement sections 40–46 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, on accessibility, by taking a cross-sectoral approach, requiring all ministries engaged in public infrastructure to address accessibility in all planning and implementation processes with an appropriate time frame, budget, monitoring and evaluation, in order to improve accessibility, especially in rural areas, and involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations at every stage;**
- (b) Ensure that accessibility requirements are included in public procurement legislation and policies for goods and services, especially in the Bureau of Indian Standards Act at the national and state levels;**
- (c) Enforce the accessibility of transportation services, including transport concessions and licences, and accessibility of information, and accelerate the implementation of the barrier-free buildings.**

Iraq

19. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities face challenges in accessing public buildings, facilities, transportation and information and communications services owing to the lack of sign language interpretation, augmentative and alternative communication devices, and Easy Read, Braille, sign language and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms;
- (b) There is limited information on the measures taken by the State party to ensure that reconstruction programmes are developed in line with the concept of universal design, such as the national reconstruction and development framework for 2018–2027, which addresses the recovery and reconstruction of governorates affected by terrorist and military operations (Baghdad, Nineveh, Saladin, Al-Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala, Babil), as well as the reconstruction and development of governorates indirectly affected by such operations.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Develop a strategy for the provision of live assistance, mobile applications, professional and certified sign language interpreters and other means to facilitate access to public buildings, facilities, transportation and information and communications services, and take measures to implement relevant national legislation and standards, including article 15 (7) and (8) of Law No. 38 (2013) and the accessibility requirements identified by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers (CRPD/C/IRQ/1, para. 49), including by establishing complaints procedures and monitoring mechanisms;**
- (b) Ensure, in cooperation with persons with disabilities, that accessibility requirements and the universal design concept are incorporated in all legislation, policies and programmes related to post-conflict reconstruction.**

Myanmar

19. The Committee is concerned about accessibility barriers faced by persons with disabilities to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including

information and communication technology and systems, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public. It is also concerned about the lack of:

(a) Provisions on accessibility in the legislation, including in the Procurement Law and that the National Building Code has not been adopted yet;

(b) Accessibility standards and guidelines, and effective measures to enforce them, including policy measures and sanction for non-compliance.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Take the necessary measures, including amending the Procurement Law and expediting the adoption of the National Building Code, to facilitate access for persons with disabilities to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology and systems, and other facilities and services, open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas;

(b) Adopt accessibility standards and a comprehensive national action plan on their implementation, with sufficient technical and financial resources, indicators to assess improvements in accessibility and sanctions for non-compliance.

Cuba

21. The Committee takes note of the initiatives to improve accessibility to public buildings and spaces as per resolution No. 81/2016 of the Ministry of Construction and Decree No. 327/2014. It is concerned, however, about the limited nature of the initiatives to ensure accessibility of the physical environment and to improve access to information and communication. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of information on measures taken to ensure that the State party's public procurement procedures incorporate accessibility standards and that public procurement processes are accessible.

22. In line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement an action plan and strategy to identify existing barriers to accessibility and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to remove the barriers to make transportation, public buildings and facilities, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, accessible in both urban and rural areas. The plan should provide for audits, specific time frames, penalties for non-compliance, the allocation of sufficient resources and the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in all stages of its implementation, in particular the monitoring of compliance;

(b) Ensure that their public procurement procedures are accessible;

(c) Take into consideration article 9 of the Convention and general comment No. 2 in its efforts to meet Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Niger

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of legislation that sets out accessibility standards, including mechanisms to ensure compliance, and the absence of financial resources to support the provision of accessible standards;

(b) The absence of a national action plan on accessibility and the lack of consultation and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in developing and monitoring an accessibility plan;

(c) The absence of information about accessibility to public transport particularly in rural areas, and the lack of accessibility to information and communication technologies, for persons with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Develop a national action plan and policies for accessibility and services for persons with disabilities, and a road map for removing existing barriers with a concrete time frame and a monitoring mechanism, paying particular attention to communication and technology-related requirements of persons with disabilities, and persons with sensory impairments and psychosocial or intellectual disabilities; and ensure the allocation of sufficient resources, sanctions for non-compliance, and obligatory accessibility standards for public procurement;**
- (b) Ensure consultation and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development of any accessibility plan;**
- (c) Adhere to article 9 of the Convention in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7 to provide access to safe, affordable, inclusive, accessible and sustainable transport systems, and public spaces for persons with disabilities.**

Norway

15. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The Planning and Building Act does not set deadlines and budget for implementing the universal design principle for existing buildings and modes of transport, and that the action plan for universal design 2015-2019 also lacks clear deadlines for implementation;**
- (b) The Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act does not contain any specific provisions on access to goods, services and information and does not cover workplaces that are not accessed by the general public;**
- (c) There is no law governing universal access to goods, services, information and communication services to persons with disabilities who cannot use self-service options and that the regulations on the universal design of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) are limited to enterprises aimed at the general public;**
- (d) There are no specific and effective measures and sanctions for the implementation of all legislation that provides for the access to the built environment and information, communications, including information and communication technology and systems.**

16. In the light of article 9 of the Convention and its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in its efforts to meet goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.17 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Remove all existing barriers of access to buildings and services open or provided to public, such as transportation and information and communication services, including by promoting universal design of goods and services, Braille, captioning, sign language interpretation, Easy Read and other alternative formats and modes of communication to foster full accessibility for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Introduce regulations that set deadlines and concrete measures with earmarked funding for universal design of the existing buildings, prioritizing primary and secondary schools, and modes of transport in the Action Plan for Universal Design 2015-2019;**
- (c) Take legislative and practical measures to guarantee access to goods, services, information and communication services to persons with disabilities who cannot use self-service options and ensure that the obligation of the universal design principle applies also to workplaces that are not accessed by the general public;**
- (d) Revise the regulation on the universal design of ICT by requiring all enterprises that serve the general public to provide individualized services to persons with disabilities when required so as to ensure accessibility of information and communications, including ICTs;**
- (e) Take specific and effective measures and sanctions for the implementation of all legislation that provides for the access to the built environment and information and communications, including information and communication technology and systems.**

Rwanda

17. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, services, information and communications is limited, especially in rural areas;
- (b) The provisions of the Building Code of 2015 on ensuring accessibility standards are not being fully implemented.

18. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and in view of targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement a comprehensive plan of action and standards on accessibility, including accessibility of the physical environment, transportation, services, information and communications;**
- (b) Strengthen the implementation of the Building Code of 2015 and its accessibility standards, and the monitoring thereof by, inter alia, training civil servants in charge of monitoring, and introducing sanctions for non-compliance, in relation to accessibility, including through universal design and public procurement.**

Saudi Arabia

15. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a mechanism in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Universal Access Programme, and of provisions regarding accessibility in the Disability Care Act, as well as at the lack of consultation of persons with disabilities in their implementation. It also expresses concern at the lack of sanctions imposed for non-compliance with accessibility provisions.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, establish a mechanism in charge of monitoring the implementation of its Universal Access Programme and grant this mechanism:

- (a) The responsibility to inspect the accessibility of public buildings, facilities, transportation as well as information and communication services, in close consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations;**
- (b) The capacity to refer cases of non-compliance to the judiciary.**
- (c) The ability to ensure meaningful consultation of persons with disabilities, including in the implementation of legislation and policies regarding accessibility.**

Senegal

15. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of information, including statistical data on the accessibility of public and private buildings since the adoption of legislative measures, including on construction projects rejected due to non-compliance with accessibility standards, complaints received for non-compliance, sanctions imposed, and the complaint mechanisms available to persons with disabilities;
- (b) The absence of a national action plan on accessibility for persons with disabilities, covering all areas including information and communication technologies, including online bank platforms, public transport, especially in rural areas and particularly for persons with sensory impairments and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Adopt measures to increase the availability of information and statistical data on the accessibility of public and private buildings open to the public, including the number of projects rejected due to non-compliance with accessibility standards, the number of complaints received for non-compliance, sanctions imposed as well as the means of recourse available to persons with disabilities to file complaints against about non-compliance with building standards;**
- (b) Develop, adopt and implement legislation and policies on accessibility of facilities and services for persons with disabilities, including introducing accessibility standards in public procurement, paying particular attention to persons with psychosocial or intellectual**

disabilities, allocating sufficient resources, and providing effective sanctions for non-compliance;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are involved and meaningfully consulted and can monitor the development of any accessibility plan;

(d) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9.c, 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable information and communication technology, transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, and universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Spain

16. The Committee is concerned that currently only the 0.6% of buildings in the State party are accessible, despite Spain's commitment to fulfil universal accessibility by the end of 2017. The Committee is concerned that measures taken to ensure universal accessibility, particularly for private buildings, have been insufficient or not effective. In particular the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The ineffectiveness of policies regarding accessibility in public administration, the absence of sufficient budget allocations and lack of mandatory accessibility criteria in public procurement at all levels;

(b) The lack of progress made in implementing accessibility measures for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, blind, deaf, persons with autism or with dwarfism.

17. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative and budgetary measures to ensure accessibility in all areas, including private open to the public and public buildings and services, such as transportation, information and communication across the country. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensure that places open to the public have signage and information in Braille and in Easy Read, and that live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign-language interpreters are provided to facilitate accessibility of buildings and public services, particularly for all persons with sensory or intellectual impairments. In particular, the Committee recommends that State party:

(a) Ensure that all laws and measures related to public administration and procurement include the requirement for accessibility for persons with disabilities, including through universal design;

(b) Establish monitoring mechanisms with the involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities to ensure that accessibility standards are met, as well as relevant sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards are enforced.

Turkey

19. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The limited standards and legislation on accessibility and the reported lack of progress to meet the deadlines set by the law of the National Plan of Action on Accessibility;

(b) The lack of publicly available, comparable, reliable and comprehensible data on financial sanctions and fines for non-compliance of accessibility standards, in electronic mass media, e-government services and banking services;

(c) The reports that the Accessibility Monitoring and Audit Commissions are not fulfilling their legal obligations and the sanctions imposed by these commissions are not applied.

20. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive accessibility roadmap based on detailed data, which sets benchmarks for the removal of existing barriers, and promotes

universal design for built environment, public services, such as transportation, information, and communication. It also recommends that the State party allocate sufficient resources for the monitoring of the implementation of accessibility standards with an updated national database throughout all provinces and local governments, including establishing enforceable and effective dissuasive sanctions for non-compliance.

Vanuatu

18. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Buildings are still not accessible for persons with disabilities despite the adoption of the National Building Code (2013);
- (b) There is the lack of accessible transportation;
- (c) The access to information and technology for persons with disabilities is still limited;
- (d) Persons with disabilities do not have adequate access to remedy;
- (e) There is no legal sanction for non-compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines, including infrastructural projects by foreign investment.

19. With reference to its general comment No.2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party take into account links between article 9 of the Convention and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it:

- (a) Allocate sufficient human and financial resources for the implementation of the National Building Code (2013);
- (b) Ensure that accessible public transport is available for persons with disabilities throughout the State party;
- (c) Enforce the Information and Communication Technology Policy (2012) to provide access to information and technology for persons with disabilities;
- (d) Develop and promote the use of all accessible formats such as sign language, captioning, Braille and Easy Read, and adopt capacity-building programmes for translators and/or interpreters of such formats of communication;
- (e) Establish a mechanism to monitor compliance with article 9 of the Convention, provide remedy for persons with disabilities and introduce sanction in case of the non-compliance, including infrastructural projects by foreign investment.

Algeria

20. The Committee is concerned that existing legislation on physical accessibility is not monitored and implemented due to a lack of resources. It is also concerned about the absence of legislation to facilitate access to persons with disabilities other than persons with reduced mobility, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas.

21. Recalling its General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Introduce legislation and an accessibility policy to promote access to all persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas;
- (b) Allocate the necessary resources to monitor its implementation;
- (c) Be guided by article 9 of the Convention in the implementation of targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, paying special attention to persons with disabilities, and to provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Bulgaria

23. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) State party's legislation that is not fully in compliance with the provisions of article 9 of the Convention;
- (b) Physical barriers that persons with disabilities face, particularly in remote and rural areas;
- (c) Public transport and services opened to the public that are still not fully accessible for persons with disabilities;
- (d) Information and communication including ICT services are still not accessible to persons with disabilities, and specially persons with sensory and persons with intellectual disabilities.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's General comment No. 2 (2014) Accessibility:

- (a) Fully harmonize its' legislation with provisions of article 9 of the Convention;**
- (b) Intensify its efforts to work towards the creation of barrier- free environment across the State Party, including in remote and rural areas;**
- (c) Expedite the process to provide fully accessible public transport and services opened to the public, including through application of monitoring mechanisms in the private and public sector, sanctions and public procurement procedures;**
- (d) Intensify the efforts to ensure full accessibility of information and communication, including ICT to all persons with all types of impairments.**

Malta

15. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Numerous public buildings and infrastructures remain inaccessible to persons with disabilities and are not in line with enforceable regulations, including the Development Control Design Policy Guidance and Standards of 2015; the "Access for All" Standards for the Built Environment issued by the Malta Consumer and Competition Affairs Authority (SM 3800) and Circular 2/14 of the Planning Authority;
- (b) Public transport services are not always accessible to persons with disabilities and that there are no regulations prohibiting private transport services to discriminatorily charge clients with disabilities at a higher fare than clients without disabilities;
- (c) There is a lack of accessible information and communications, and information and communications technology, for persons with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9 (c), 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Review the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in place through the Planning Authority and the Test of Reasonableness Board of the Commission on the Rights of Persons with Disability to ensure that they have the means necessary to review construction plans and enforce national accessibility standards;**
- (b) Strengthen the enforcement mechanisms through Transport Malta to ensure that public and private service providers adhere to the 'concession agreements' between Transport Malta and local public bus transport operators, to the Taxi Services Regulations (SL 499.59) and to the "Access for All" Standards for the Built Environment issued by the Malta Consumer and Competition Affairs Authority (SM 3800);**
- (c) Ensure that information and communications, including information and communication technologies, are accessible to persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, and ensure that the law is strengthened, monitored and implemented;**
- (d) Empower persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to take part in the monitoring of the implementation of accessibility standards.**

Philippines

20. The Committee is concerned that measures, such as the Batas Pambansa No. 344 also known as the Accessibility Law and the Republic Act No. 7277 do not include principles of

accessibility through universal design as set forth in articles 2 and 9 of the Convention. It is also concerned about the absence of a national action plan for accessibility, that only city buses are required to comply with accessibility, and the fact that the current accessibility law does not include accessibility for all persons with disabilities. It is further concerned about the limited accessibility to modern jeepney.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by its General comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and involving the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Conduct review of its legislation and adopt a plan of action to develop accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications of all persons with disabilities. The State party should adhere to principle of universal design as laid down in article 2 of the Convention ensuring that the infrastructure, transportation, services, and technologies are designed for and usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for further adaptation or specialized design;**
- (b) Expand accessibility laws and guidelines to protect the accessibility of all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Establish complaint procedures and monitoring of accessibility requirements concerning public and private services, facilities, and procurement procedures, ensuring the right of and resources for organizations of persons with disabilities to support complaint procedures and monitoring of accessibility;**
- (d) Strengthen technical and financial resources to ensure accessibility transportation beyond the available accessible seats in public buses;**
- (e) Increase the use of jeepney for all persons with disabilities;**
- (f) Put into consideration its obligations under article 9 of the Convention relevant to the Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7 to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems to persons with disabilities by adapting public transport, with special attention to the requirements of persons with disabilities;**
- (g) Adopt monitoring indicators to assess the improvement in accessibility.**

Poland

15. The Committee is concerned about insufficient:

- (a) Accessibility to buildings and public services such as transportation, information and communication for all persons with disabilities, especially in smaller urban or rural municipalities;**
- (b) Regulations providing for standards and obligations to implement the principles of universal design to buildings and public services, including regulations covering municipal housing construction, accessibility of ATM's and other self-service devices; it is also concerned that the Construction Law of 1995 contains few obligations to ensure accessibility for all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Mechanisms to monitor the implementation of accessibility regulations and standards, and sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility requirements;**
- (d) Trainings on accessibility and universal design in the curricula of architectural, design and computer studies, including for the staff of responsible institutions.**

16. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all measures to ensure accessibility in all areas, including buildings and public services such as transportation, information and communication services across the State Party;**
- (b) Update and enact regulations providing for standards and obligations to implement standards of universal design to products, environment, transportation, information and communication services, ATM's and other self-service devices, municipal housing to be**

used by all persons with disabilities across all State Party, including buildings built before 1995;

(c) Include the requirement for accessibility through universal design in the Public Procurement Law;

(d) Establish monitoring mechanisms that involve organisations of persons with disabilities to ensure that accessibility standards are respected in all determined areas, including in public investment projects, as well as relevant sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards;

(e) Foster mandatory training courses on accessibility and universal design in the curricula of architectural, design and computer studies, including for the staff of responsible institutions, including capacity-building of the local authorities responsible for monitoring implementation of accessibility standards.

South Africa

16. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The absence of laws enabling accessibility of persons with disabilities, and their inclusion, participation and meaningful consultation, through their representative organisations, in developing and monitoring an accessibility plan;

(b) The absence of a clear unified national strategy on accessibility for persons with disabilities, providing for such accessible facilities at banks, including online bank platforms for persons with disabilities, particularly those with sensory impairments and psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and including public transport in rural areas.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

(a) **Adopt and implement legislation, a national strategy and policies on accessibility and services for persons with disabilities, paying particular attention to persons with sensory impairments and psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, allocate sufficient resources, provide effective sanctions for non-compliance, and introduce accessibility criteria in public procurement;**

(b) **Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are fully involved and meaningfully consulted on the development of any accessibility plan;**

(c) **Step up measures to enforce the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, monitor progress and reinforce sanctions for lack of compliance with accessibility standards in public and private sector buildings.**

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

19. The Committee notes with concern that the State party's legislation provides for systematised and comprehensive approach to the right to physical access. However, it is concerned that:

(a) There are no specific and effective measures and sanctions for the implementation of legislation that provides for the access to the built environment and the information, communication and technology systems;

(b) The access to buildings, transport and public institutions and services remains insufficient outside of the capital, including lack of application of all international standards for accessibility at the international Airport;

(c) The level of cooperation between the Government departments and agencies with organisations of persons with disabilities in regards to implementation and evaluation of accessibility standards is minimal;

(d) The State party legislation does not provide systematic nor complete approach to accessibility of information and communication, including information and communication technologies and systems.

20. In the light of article 9 of the Convention and its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in its efforts to meet goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.17 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Review its legislation to provide for the mandatory application of accessibility standards in all areas, particularly regarding buildings, transport, other facilities and services open to the public, and information and communication technologies and systems, and for the strict application of sanctions to those who fail to apply them;
- (b) Include the accessibility standards as a requirement in all public procurement of services and construction and monitor the implementation;
- (c) Ensure that access to buildings, transport, information and communication technologies and systems and other facilities and services open to the public and public institutions and services is available on all the territory of the State party;
- (d) Speed up the adoption of the comprehensive national action plan on implementing the accessibility standards in close consultation with the organisations of people with disabilities, with clearly defined timeframes, monitoring and evaluation benchmarks.

Haiti

16. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The absence of a legislative framework to regulate accessibility of the built and physical environment and information and communications technologies;
- (b) The absence of a mechanism monitoring compliance of accessibility;
- (c) The absence of policies relating to accessibility targeting all persons with disabilities.

17. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:**

- (a) Expedite the adoption of legislative measures to comply with article 9 of the Convention, including accessibility of the built environment, transport, buildings and facilities as well as information and communications technologies and provide for penalties in case of non-compliance;
- (b) Establish an appropriate entity to evaluate and monitor compliance with article 9;
- (c) Adopt and implement a comprehensive action plan on accessibility, including training on all the different dimensions of accessibility through universal design;
- (d) Take into account links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all and improving road safety and to provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.

Nepal

17. The Committee is concerned that the State party's measures on accessibility are limited, as noted in the National Policy and the Plan of Action on Disability (2006), to persons with disabilities in urban and city environment thereby excluding all groups of persons with disabilities living in rural and remote rugged mountainous areas.

18. **The Committee recommends that the State party in line with the Committee's General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:**

- (a) Broaden its policy for accessibility to include all groups of persons with disabilities, including those living in rural and remote rugged mountainous areas;
- (b) Strengthen measures, including public procurement to grant access by persons with disabilities to information and communications technologies, including by the provision of low-cost software and assistive devices for all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;
- (c) Strengthen its monitoring and enforcement mechanisms on accessibility to ensure that the National Policy and the Plan of Action on Disability (2006), the Right to Information Act, 2007, the new comprehensive Accessibility Guidelines (2013); the Thirteenth Plan (2013–2016) and the current Fourteenth Implementation Plan, are duly implemented.

Oman

19. The Committee notes the numerous initiatives in creating a barrier-free society. The Committee is, however, concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information on the legislation setting out accessibility standards, and a complaint mechanism to enforce accessibility standards;
- (b) The lack of information on monitoring and inspections of facilities to ensure accessibility, as well as information regarding compliance and sanctions;
- (c) The absence of laws that ensure the accessibility of persons with disabilities, and their inclusion, participation and consultation, through their representative organisations, in developing and monitoring an accessibility plan of the State party;
- (d) The composition and mandate of the Specialised Subcommittee to Address the Creation of a Barrier-Free Environment.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with General Comment No. 2 on Accessibility (2014):

- (a) Adopt and implement legislation and policies for barrier-free facilities and services, including the Social Action Strategy, paying particular attention to communication-related requirements of persons with disabilities, with particular reference to persons with sensory impairments and psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, the allocation of sufficient resources, enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance, obligatory accessibility criteria for public procurement, and a road map for removing existing barriers based on detailed data with indicators, and a concrete time frame and a monitoring and enforcement mechanism;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are fully involved and consulted on the development of any accessibility plan of the State party, including the Specialised Subcommittee for the Creation of a Barrier-Free Environment;**
- (c) Be guided by article 9 of the Convention in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7 to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to persons with disabilities; and provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.**

Russian Federation

19. The Committee notes with concern that in spite of the adoption of the State Accessible Environment Programme for 2011–2020, the creation of a barrier-free environment across the State Party, including in remote and rural areas, is “limited by the need to strike a balance between such conditions and the economic possibilities of society, in accordance with the principle of reasonable accommodation”, according to paragraph 25 of the State party’s written replies (CRPD/C/ RUS /Q/1/Add.1). The Committee is also concerned that the Programme does not provide accessibility for all types of impairments.

20. The Committee recommends that the State Party intensify its efforts to fully implement the State Accessible Environment Programme for 2011–2020, and work towards the creation of a barrier-free environment across the country, including in remote and rural areas, in line with the Committee’s General comment No. 2. It also recommends that the State party ensure that the Programme is implemented effectively and ensures accessibility to all types of impairments.

21. The Committee notes with concern that deaf persons face challenges in accessing emergency hotline 112 across the State Party, including in remote and rural areas.

22. The Committee recommends that the State Party ensure access to emergency hotline 112 across the State Party, including in remote and rural areas, especially for deaf persons.

23. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities in some major cities face challenges in accessing parking spaces free of charge.

24. The Committee recommends that the State Party take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can access to parking spaces free of charge.

25. The Committee also recommends the State party to be guided by article 9 of the Convention and the Committee's General Comment No2 (2014) on accessibility in implementing targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Seychelles

14. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) Delays in the implementation of legislation about accessibility, such as the 'Accessible Slovenia Strategy' and the Act on equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities, as well as delays in implementing the minimum standards of accessibility of all goods and services available to the public and private services;
- (b) The fact that numerous public buildings as well as services, including public transport remain inaccessible, especially in non-capital areas;
- (c) The lack of implementation of digital accessibility and the lack of accessibility to information and communication technology products and services, as well as broadcasting services;
- (d) The insufficient measures for ensuring accessibility of information and communication for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, despite the obligations contained in inter alia the European Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications.

15. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the 'Accessible Slovenia Strategy' and the Act on equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities are fully operational and effective; it further recommends adopting clear accessibility standards and measures to ensure sanctions for lack of compliance with accessibility standards;**
- (b) Develop the operational measures to implement accessibility of transport services, and accessibility to all buildings open to the public, increase budget allocations for such measures, especially in non-capital areas;**
- (c) Adopt a strategy to ensure accessibility in the public procurement policy and require private actors to adhere to accessibility policies;**
- (d) Ensure the full implementation of the European Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications, especially in the education system;**
- (e) Ensure the promotion and availability of alternative and augmentative modes of communication and Easy Read information.**

Slovenia

14. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) Delays in the implementation of legislation about accessibility, such as the 'Accessible Slovenia Strategy' and the Act on equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities, as well as delays in implementing the minimum standards of accessibility of all goods and services available to the public and private services;
- (b) The fact that numerous public buildings as well as services, including public transport remain inaccessible, especially in non-capital areas;
- (c) The lack of implementation of digital accessibility and the lack of accessibility to information and communication technology products and services, as well as broadcasting services;
- (d) The insufficient measures for ensuring accessibility of information and communication for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, despite the obligations contained in inter alia the European Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications.

15. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the 'Accessible Slovenia Strategy' and the Act on equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities are fully operational and effective; it further recommends adopting clear accessibility standards and measures to ensure sanctions for lack of compliance with accessibility standards;**
- (b) Develop the operational measures to implement accessibility of transport services, and accessibility to all buildings open to the public, increase budget allocations for such measures, especially in non-capital areas;**
- (c) Adopt a strategy to ensure accessibility in the public procurement policy and require private actors to adhere to accessibility policies;**
- (d) Ensure the full implementation of the European Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications, especially in the education system;**
- (e) Ensure the promotion and availability of alternative and augmentative modes of communication and Easy Read information.**

Sudan

19. The Committee notes that the State party introduced accessibility standards, through the Construction Code for newly constructed buildings and transport system, but is concerned that the Code is not legally binding. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of a plan and timeframe to extend accessibility standards to all areas with legally enforceable sanctions, monitoring mechanisms and removing existing barriers, both regarding infrastructure and access to information and technology.

20. In the light of article 9 of the Convention and its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in its efforts to meet goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.17 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Review its legislation to provide for the mandatory application of accessibility standards in all areas, monitoring mechanisms and for sanctions to those who fail to apply them;**
- (b) Develop in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities a comprehensive national accessibility action plan with timeframes, monitoring and evaluation benchmarks;**
- (c) Expedite the availability of materials produced in Braille, Easy Read, audio and other accessible formats.**

Latvia

16. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a comprehensive national legal, policy and strategic framework accompanied by the necessary monitoring mechanisms in the State party to ensure compliance with accessibility standards based on universal design that guarantee persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to all facilities and services open or provided to the public throughout the State party, including access to information, means of communication and transport.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, a comprehensive national accessibility action plan with time frames, indicators, and monitoring and evaluation benchmarks to effectively implement universal design standards in accessing the physical environment, transportation, information and means of communication, while imposing sanctions for noncompliance;**
- (b) Pay attention to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to the link between article 9 of the Convention, and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Luxembourg

20. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The legal framework on accessibility is not in conformity with the obligations under the Convention and that accessibility guidelines and standards are not mandatory;
- (b) Public transport services, including accessible transport services catering to persons with disabilities, are insufficient;
- (c) There is a lack of accessible information and communications for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9 (c), 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Introduce legislation and policy measures on accessibility in line with the Convention, with appropriate enforcement mechanisms, including public and private buildings, access to emergency services, public transport and infrastructure;**
- (b) Ensure that information and communications, including information and communication technologies, are accessible to persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Invest in the promotion of Easy Read and plain language, augmentative and other alternative formats, including sign language and Braille.**

Montenegro

18. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a comprehensive accessibility strategy or harmonized legislation. It notes with concern that most public services and buildings, electronic banking and automated teller machine services, the 112 hotline for emergency situations and public transport are reportedly not accessible or are insufficiently accessible for persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that, in line with article 9 of the Convention, its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

- (a) Adopt an adequately resourced comprehensive accessibility strategy and an action plan with an efficient monitoring mechanism, benchmarks and reasonable timelines for the removal of barriers, with enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance;**
- (b) Take particularly swift measures to ensure the accessibility of the 112 hotline;**
- (c) Promote universal design for all buildings, public services and public transport with particular focus on applicable information and communications technology solutions, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including at the local level.**

Morocco

22. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of information on the binding requirements for compliance with the accessibility standards contained in the laws that regulate urban planning and architecture, and the lack of monitoring mechanisms to ensure enforcement of the law;
- (b) The lack of information on the accessibility of information and communications technologies, including government and private websites, for all persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of information about the accessibility of public transport, particularly in rural areas.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Develop a strategic plan for the provision of accessible information and communication technologies, in which it sets out guidelines for the procurement of goods and services, and ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the process;**
- (b) Put in place a mechanism to monitor compliance with accessibility standards in all areas covered by the Convention, ensure the enforcement of law 10-03 on accessibility and impose sanctions in the event of non-compliance with the law;**

(c) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to persons with disabilities, and universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Panama

26. The Committee notes the recent improvements made to public buildings and spaces but is concerned at the lack of accessibility in many public spaces, in particular in public transportation, airports, land terminals, tourist sites and government buildings, especially for persons with reduced mobility, deaf persons, persons with visual impairments and persons with intellectual disabilities. The Committee is further concerned at the limited progress in implementing Act No. 15 of 2016 on accessibility for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned by the failure to observe international standards on the accessibility of information and communications.

27. In line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement a plan containing measurable indicators to make transportation, public buildings and facilities, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, accessible in both urban and rural areas. The plan should provide for audits, specific time frames, penalties for non-compliance, the allocation of sufficient resources and the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in all stages of its implementation, in particular the monitoring of compliance;

(b) Adopt the international standards on the accessibility of information and communications;

(c) Take into consideration article 9 of the Convention and general comment No. 2 in its efforts to meet Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

24. The Committee is concerned by the insufficient scope, content and number of obligatory and implemented accessible standards relating to, among others, the physical environment, affordable housing, information and communications technology (ICT), transport and information in urban and rural areas. It is also concerned that austerity measures have hindered the advancement of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

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

(a) Identify outstanding gaps across the State party in terms of obligatory accessibility standards in all areas of the Convention, among others, the design of affordable and accessible physical environments, housing, ICT, information formats and transport infrastructure, including emergency services and green and public spaces in both urban and rural areas, and ensure that the standards are met;

(b) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and targets 9, 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Monitor the development towards full inclusion through accessibility and sanction violations of accessibility regulations.

Armenia

15. The Committee is concerned about the overall lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities in the State party. It is also concerned about the lack of implementation of the existing accessibility norms and standards set out in the national legislation to eliminate obstacles and barriers relating to facilities, urbanism, construction and public services such as transport, information and communication services. It is also concerned that the Code on

Administrative Offences does not stipulate sanctions for breaches of accessibility norms and standards, and that there are no monitoring mechanisms in place at the State level to ensure the effective implementation of such norms and standards.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all measures to ensure the implementation of legal guarantees to accessibility in all areas, including urbanism, construction and public services such as transportation, information and communication services;

(b) Remove all barriers to access to buildings and public services, such as transportation, information and communication services, including by promoting universal design, Braille, subtitling, sign language interpretation, and easy-read formats and other alternative modes of communication;

(c) Review the Code on Administrative Offences to include appropriate sanctions for breaches of accessibility norms and standards, and set up a monitoring mechanism based on reporting at the State level to ensure the effective implementation of such norms and standards;

(d) Adopt a time-bound accessibility strategy and plan of action and ensure their implementation and monitoring in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

18. The Committee is concerned that there is no comprehensive accessibility strategy nor harmonized legislation at all levels with effective sanctions, and that most public buildings and institutions, with special regard to those providing public legal assistance and/or services for persons with disabilities in particular, as well as public transport, are reported as inaccessible. It is also concerned that electronic mass media services are not provided in a format accessible to persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive accessibility strategy and an action plan with sufficient budget, an efficient monitoring mechanism and benchmarks for the removal of barriers, with enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance;

(b) Promote universal design for all buildings, public services and public transport;

(c) Provide accessible information and social communication media, with special attention to electronic media, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility (art. 9 of the Convention);

(d) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9, 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Canada

21. The Committee notes the process undertaken to consult with Canadians on the development of new federal legislation expected to address various areas of the Convention. However, it is concerned about barriers to accessibility, in particular persisting barriers to access to transport, in particular in rural areas and to aircraft, and the lack of accessibility of information and communication for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

22. The Committee, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, recommends that the State party:

(a) Review current accessibility legislation and plans at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to ensure that they address all features of accessibility, in particular the physical environment, transportation (including civil aviation) and information and communication, including information and communications technologies and systems, and that they comprise mechanisms to monitor and regularly evaluate compliance with accessibility standards;

- (b) Ensure the availability of alternative modes of communication, in particular easy-read versions of public documents and fundamental legislation, such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- (c) Adopt sectoral plans to enhance information and communication services in public transport for hard-of-hearing, deaf, blind and deaf-blind persons with disabilities;
- (d) Set up a time frame and targets for implementing access to caption services in French and descriptive video content for websites and social media;
- (e) Bear in mind its obligations under article 9 of the Convention while implementing Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11 (targets 11.2 and 11.7).

Cyprus

25. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient comprehensive and mandatory measures ensuring that persons with disabilities have access on an equal basis with others to indoor and outdoor environment, information and communication and other goods, products and services in both urban and rural areas. It further notes with concern that information on public websites is not provided systematically in accessible formats and in compliance with the most recent Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to improve accessibility, including by increasing the allocation of human, technical and financial resources and applying internationally recognized standardization with a view to ensure accessibility to public and private indoor and outdoor environments, information, communication and emergency services, as well as professional sign language interpretation, and augmentative and alternative communication in both rural and urban areas. The Committee also recommends that the State party significantly strengthen the monitoring of compliance with those regulations and systematically enforce sanctioning for non-compliance. In so doing, the State party should be guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, especially target 11.7, and by general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

27. The Committee notes with concern that public transport is insufficiently accessible in all its forms, including that only one third of buses are accessible and that persons with disabilities who have wheelchairs are charged more for the use of taxis – often double the charge – compared with the rest of the population.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by general comment No. 2 (2014) and target 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, ensure access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport for all, including persons with disabilities regardless of their type of impairment. In particular, it recommends that the State party ensure that all new means of public transport brought into the public transport system offer full accessibility and that no additional charges are made for the use of taxis and other means of public transportation by those who have wheelchairs or other necessary devices.

Honduras

21. El Comité observa con preocupación que las infraestructuras de transportes, edificios y los servicios de información y comunicaciones abiertos al público no son plenamente accesibles para las personas con discapacidad del Estado parte. Le preocupa también que la Secretaría de Obras Públicas, Transporte y Vivienda, siendo la entidad gubernamental que regula lo concerniente al sistema vial, urbanístico y del transporte, reconoce que no se han adoptado suficientes medidas para supervisar y sancionar el incumplimiento de las normas de accesibilidad en línea con los estándares internacionales.

22. De conformidad con su observación general núm. 2 (2014) sobre accesibilidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que implemente un plan de acción con metas, plazos y recursos necesarios, para aplicar la accesibilidad en el transporte, los servicios, el entorno físico, la información y la comunicación, tanto en las ciudades como en las zonas rurales, con auditorías, plazos concretos y sanciones por incumplimiento, en donde se involucre a las

organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en todas las etapas de su desarrollo, especialmente en el monitoreo del cumplimiento. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que tome en cuenta el artículo 9 de la Convención y la observación general núm. 2 en el cumplimiento de las metas 9, 11.2 y 11.7 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

20. The Committee observes that the State party adopted accessibility standards, and has carried out plans to improve accessibility of housing. However, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information about plans to ensure accessibility in rural areas; ^[L]_[SEP]
- (b) The absence of measures to achieve accessibility to information and ^[L]_[SEP]communication, including information and communication technologies;
- (c) The absence of measures to monitor and sanction non-compliance with accessibility standards both in the public and private sector; and
- (d) The lack of information about plans to ensure accessibility to services and buildings including schools, medical facilities and workplaces and on how representative organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted in the development of measures to accomplish accessibility.

21. The Committee, in line with its General comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national action plan on accessibility with time-bound benchmarks and budget allocations, that comprises rural and urban areas and all dimensions of accessibility;**
- (b) Include in its legislation, the principle of universal design and promote its application by relevant stakeholders;**
- (c) Make public investments, through public procurements measures aimed at providing accessible and subsidised information and communication technologies and systems for persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Introduce mechanisms to monitor and evaluate compliance with accessibility standards in public and private spheres;**
- (e) Consult on permanent basis with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, about accessibility measures required to access facilities and services; and**
- (f) Bear in mind the linkages between article 9 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7.**

Jordan

19. The Committee is concerned that the National Building Code, issued pursuant to the National Building Law (No. 7 of 1993), which sets out accessibility standards for facilities, buildings and roads, is not effectively implemented. It notes the overlapping roles of entities responsible for granting licences and monitoring the implementation of the Code, which lead to patchwork adherence to accessibility standards and insufficient application of sanctions for non-compliance.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the implementation of accessibility standards and the monitoring thereof by, inter alia, clarifying which entities are mandated to monitor implementation, building the capacity of and providing ongoing training to civil servants and experts in charge of monitoring, involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the monitoring and sanctioning of those who fail to apply accessibility standards.

21. The Committee notes with concern that blind and deaf persons and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities face challenges in accessing public buildings, facilities, transportation as well as information and communication services owing to the lack of sign language interpretation, augmentative and alternative communication devices, and easy-to-read and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the provision of public signs in Braille and easy-to-read formats, ensure the provision of live assistance, intermediaries, guides, readers, accessible information kiosks, ticket vending machines, websites, mobile applications and professional and certified sign language interpreters to facilitate access to public buildings, facilities, transportation and information and communication services, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Republic of Moldova

20. The Committee is concerned by the overall lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities in the State party. It is concerned about the insufficient implementation of the guarantees relating to accessibility stipulated in laws No. 121 and No. 60, and government decision No. 599, and to eliminate obstacles and barriers relating to access to facilities and public services such as transport, information and communications. It is also concerned that the Contravention Code does not stipulate sanctions for failure to ensure accessibility in all areas and that existing sanctions are rarely enforced.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all measures to ensure the implementation of legal guarantees to accessibility in all areas including urbanism, construction and public services;**
- (b) Ensure that the sanctions for non-compliance are developed and enforced for all areas of accessibility;**
- (c) Adopt a time-bound accessibility plan of action and ensure its implementation and monitoring, in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**
- (d) Pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Bolivia

21. The Committee is concerned at the lack of accessibility plans with specific targets and time frames. It is also concerned that no account is taken of the views of persons with disabilities in the design of such plans and the definition of indicators and sanctions for non-compliance.

22. The Committee urges the State party to implement accessibility plans with measurable goals and time frames, as well as sanctions for non-compliance. It also recommends that it allocate adequate budgetary funds to implement accessibility plans and ensure that they can be monitored and evaluated by organizations of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party be guided by its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and by article 9 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia

22. The Committee notes with concern the absence of a national plan for implementing accessibility standards and the little progress made to ensure accessibility in rural areas, public transport, public service facilities, information and communication means, and accessibility for deaf persons, deaf-blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities. It is concerned, moreover, that accessibility is not a prerequisite for the purchase and sale of public goods and services.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and that it:

- (a) Develop and carry out an accessibility plan for the physical environment of public facilities, transport, and information and communication means, including related technology that complies with internationally recognized standards, throughout Colombia, with specific deadlines and non-compliance penalties and, in doing so, work closely with**

organizations of persons with disabilities, and seek to involve them in particular in monitoring the plan's implementation;

(b) Take into consideration the accessibility requirements of persons with disabilities who need more extensive support;

(c) Include accessibility as a prerequisite when issuing licences for provision of public goods or services;

(d) Be guided by article 9 of the Convention in pursuing targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ethiopia

19. The Committee is concerned at the lack of implementation of laws, regulations and directives on infrastructure accessibility, the lack of compliance with the existing Building Code and that the concept of universal design is not enforced in domestic law. It is also concerned that policies on accessibility are limited to physical impairment and do not target all persons with disabilities, and that no criteria on accessibility have been adopted and applied within public procurement policies.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party fully implement laws, regulations and directives on infrastructure accessibility, including the Building Code. It also recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive plan of action and standards on accessibility, including accessibility of the environment, transportation, buildings and facilities, information and communications. It further recommends that the State party introduce training and sanctions for non-compliance in relation to accessibility, universal design, procurement and construction, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and to implement targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guatemala

27. The Committee notes that the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities Act (Decree No. 135-96) covers the regulation of issues regarding access to the physical environment, to transportation and to information and communications. However, it notes with concern that the Act does not stipulate penalties for non-compliance and that implementation of the Act is very limited, especially in rural areas and remote communities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, amend the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities Act (Decree No. 135-96) and all relevant legislation and adopt standards and regulations on accessibility, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, ensuring that they stipulate penalties for non-compliance. It also recommends implementing accessibility plans in rural areas and remote communities, with targets, time frames and the necessary resources, in the framework of the State party's policy on comprehensive rural development and infrastructure for development. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 9 of the Convention in its implementation of targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Italy

21. The Committee is concerned about insufficient information on complaints and the monitoring of accessibility standards, including within the use of public procurement, and the lack of enforcement and sanctions for non-compliance.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen data collection, monitoring and sanctions mechanisms, including within public procurement laws and policies, to ensure compliance with accessibility standards. This must include website accessibility and access to emergency services, public transport, buildings and infrastructure. It also recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of

the Sustainable Development Goals, to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of persons with disabilities; and provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee is concerned about insufficient data concerning the limited availability of accessible communications across the public sector, including the education sector.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party carry out an audit and action plan to ensure the provision of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, and augmentative and alternative communication across all public sectors. In particular, augmentative and alternative communication must be provided free of charge in the education sector.

United Arab Emirates

19. The Committee is concerned that almost all initiatives to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities address physical disabilities, are not systematic, are often associated with charitable initiatives and are limited in scope. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of:

(a) Specific binding legal and policy frameworks to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to all facilities and services open or provided to the public throughout the State party, including access to information, means of communications and transport;

(b) Cases involving the handing down of legal sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines.

20. In the light of its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt legislation for barrier-free facilities and services open to the public and a comprehensive accessibility plan, paying particular attention to communication-related needs, the allocation of sufficient resources, enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance, obligatory accessibility criteria for public procurement, and a road map for removing existing barriers based on detailed data with a concrete time frame and a monitoring and enforcement mechanism;**

(b) **Promote a universal design for all buildings and public services, information and social media, transport and services open to the public, and incorporate accessibility standards into public procurement criteria;**

(c) **Be guided by article 9 of the Convention in the implementation of targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Uruguay

21. El Comité observa con preocupación que el transporte, el entorno físico, la información y la comunicación, abiertos al público no son plenamente accesibles para las personas con discapacidad, especialmente en el interior del Estado parte. Preocupa también la inexistencia de un órgano nacional que se ocupe de supervisar y sancionar el incumplimiento de los estándares de accesibilidad.

22. De conformidad con la observación general número 2 del Comité (2014) sobre accesibilidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que implemente un plan de acción para aplicar la accesibilidad en el transporte, el entorno físico, la información y la comunicación, conforme al concepto de diseño universal, tanto en zonas rurales como urbanas del Estado parte, con auditorías, plazos concretos y sanciones por incumplimiento, en donde se involucre a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en todas las etapas de su desarrollo, implementación, y especialmente en el monitoreo del cumplimiento. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 9 de la Convención y las metas 11.2, 11.3 y 11.7 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, para proporcionar transporte accesible, urbanización inclusiva con planificación y gestión

participativa, y acceso universal a zonas verdes y espacios públicos seguros, inclusivos y accesibles.

Chile

19. Al Comité le preocupan los pocos avances en el cumplimiento de la Ley núm. 20422 en materia de accesibilidad, así como la inexistencia de mecanismos de queja por la violación a los derechos de las personas con discapacidad relativas a la falta de accesibilidad.

20. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte adopte un plan de accesibilidad general teniendo en cuenta la observación general núm. 2 (2014) del Comité sobre accesibilidad (artículo 9 de la Convención), que incluya la accesibilidad en el transporte, las edificaciones e instalaciones públicas, la información y la comunicación, tanto en las ciudades como en las áreas rurales, con plazos concretos y sanciones por incumplimiento, en donde se involucre a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en todas las etapas de su desarrollo, especialmente en el monitoreo del cumplimiento. Además, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 9 de la Convención y el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 11, en particular las metas 11.2 y 11.7.

Lithuania

21. The Committee is concerned at the limited scope of measures taken and the reportedly insufficient progress made to promote the application of universal design principles in the physical environment and in transport, especially to improve accessibility within and around private and public buildings and throughout the chain of transport, including in parking spaces, in train stations, on platforms and in intercity buses, taxis and ferries. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of an effective mechanism for monitoring the accessibility of buildings.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and in close collaboration with organizations representing persons with disabilities:

(a) Develop and implement a plan of action with a clear time frame, measurable baselines and indicators, and regulations and standards to guarantee the progressive application of universal design principles to the physical environment, including in accessible housing and transport, in both urban and rural areas, with a view to ensuring accessibility for all persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that such a plan of action, regulations and standards encompass the physical, environmental, informational and communications aspects of accessibility for all persons with disabilities, provide for corresponding dissuasive sanctions and enforcement mechanisms and halt the use of European Union funds for the development of inaccessible constructions, websites and other infrastructure;

(c) Allocate the human and financial resources necessary for the effective implementation of such a plan of action, regulations and standards and establish mechanisms to monitor their implementation;

(d) Pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Portugal

21. The Committee notes that the Accessibility Act has been under review since 2012, the second phase of the National Plan for the Promotion of Accessibility for the period 2011-2015 has yet to be started, and that recent legislation concerning urban regeneration provides for exemption from accessibility requirements. It also notes that legislation fails to distinguish between the licensing body and the monitoring body, and that sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility regulations are rare.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7 to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for

all, notably by expanding public transport, paying special attention to the needs of vulnerable people, women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly; and provide universal access to green and public spaces that are safe, inclusive and accessible, particularly for women and children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures, in close consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, in order to adopt swiftly an amended accessibility act which is in compliance with the Convention, as set forth in the Committee's General Comment No 2 (2014) on accessibility, including effective and accessible complaints and implementation mechanisms.

Serbia

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a national accessibility strategy and legislation with effective sanctions for non-compliance, the low degree of accessibility of public buildings, institutions and services, and electronic mass media services in the State Party.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive accessibility plan with efficient monitoring, and a roadmap which sets benchmarks for the removal of existing barriers; and promote universal design for all buildings and public services, public transport, and accessible information and social communication media with special regards to electronic media, in line with General Comment no.2 on Accessibility. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party allocate sufficient resources to monitor the implementation of accessibility standards with the support of an updated national database throughout its territory; establish enforceable and effective, dissuasive sanctions for non-compliance; increase subtitling and sign language interpretation in the media; and involve organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) in the process. The Committee also recommends the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7.

Slovakia

29. The Committee is concerned that national legislation does not provide for the monitoring of compliance to guarantee accessibility to buildings or transport.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party implement policies, guidelines and training, along with sanctions for non-compliance, in relation to accessibility, universal design, procurement and construction, especially with regard to the proposed new building act, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accessibility to public information and communication, including in relation to transport.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party make provision for public signs in Braille and easy-to-read formats, and live assistance, intermediaries, guides, readers, accessible information kiosks, ticket vending machines, websites, mobile applications and professional sign language interpreters to facilitate accessibility to buildings, transport and other facilities open to the public.

33. The Committee further recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thailand

21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of implementation of legislation on accessibility, especially in remote and rural areas. It is also concerned about the lack of coherent standards on accessibility, effective enforceability and sanctions for non-compliance.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective cooperation of cross-cutting ministries and the adoption of a comprehensive accessibility plan covering all

facets in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, with sufficient resource allocation, enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance and a defined time frame for its implementation, by setting up a national database for its monitoring. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals , in order to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of persons with disabilities and to provide universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, green public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Uganda

16. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The challenges faced by persons with disabilities, both in rural and urban areas, in gaining access to transportation and information in accessible formats such as sign language, Braille and easy-to-read formats for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;
- (b) Insufficient resources to implement government policies and programmes in relation to accessibility, including in the transport sector;
- (c) The lack of low-cost information and communications technologies for persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, the lack of regulation for the implementation of the Public Control Act and about the fact that public procurement requirements do not include accessible standards.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Adopt an action plan to ensure accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications technologies and systems, with adequate resources and a time-bound framework;**
- (b) Introduce a monitoring mechanism and effective sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards in all areas covered by the Convention, including in the transport sector;**
- (c) Strengthen measures, including public procurement to grant access by persons with disabilities to information and communications technologies, including by the provision of low-cost software and assistive devices for all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;**
- (d) Encourage the banking sector to recruit professional sign language interpreters to assist deaf persons in their banking transactions;**
- (e) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Brazil

22. The Committee notes with concern that accessibility of built environment, transport, information and communication and services open to the public is not fully achieved, especially in remote and rural areas.

23. The Committee recommends to the State Party to take efficient measures to ensure accessibility of built environment, transport, information and communication and services open to the public, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014), on accessibility, in rural and remote areas, including by full implementation of the existing legislation, including public procurement, and policies, efficient monitoring and sanctioning all that fail to comply fully with accessibility standards.

European Union

28. The Committee is concerned that a European Accessibility Act has not yet been adopted by the European Union, and that existing European policies, legislation, regulations and programmes have not been sufficiently assessed.

29. The Committee recommends that the European Union take efficient measures for prompt adoption of an amended European Accessibility Act that is aligned to the Convention, as elaborated in the Committee's General comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, including effective and accessible enforcement and complaint mechanisms. It further recommends that the European Union ensure participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the process of adoption of the Act.

Gabon

22. The Committee is concerned about the lack of implementation of legislation on the accessibility of built environment, in particular new buildings and constructions, as well as transportation. Furthermore the Committee is concerned by the absence of legislation on accessibility of information and communications technology and other services.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party: implement legally enforceable accessibility standards, including effective sanctions for non-compliance; allocate financial resources; and, in close consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, develop a comprehensive national accessibility action plan complete with timeframes, indicators, monitoring and evaluation, and which binds all public procurement processes in line with General Comment No. 2.

Kenya

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The barriers for persons with disabilities to access public transportation in urban and rural areas and the lack of measures to enforce the guarantees concerning accessibility in all areas of life; and

(b) The lack of measures to sanction non-compliance with existing accessibility standards;

18. In line with General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Finalize and adopt the draft Consolidated National Action Plan on Accessibility and Disability Rights for the implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 14 of 2003 and related provisions of the Constitution 2010; and**

(b) **Effectively implement the regulations of non-compliance as provided in Persons with Disabilities Act and ensure adjustment orders are issued to non-compliant stakeholders.**

Mauritius

17. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities encountered various obstacles to access the physical environment and information communication services, transport and services opened to the public and therefore cannot exercise their rights on equal basis with others due to the lack of effective measures taken by the State party to eliminate existing barriers to accessibility.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party proceed to the announced revision of the Building Act, the Roads Act, the Morcellement Act and the Town and Country Planning Act and to adopt a legally binding accessibility action plan, with benchmarks, indicators and timelines, to cover all aspects of the built environment, public service provision, information and communications, including sign language interpretation as well as assistive listening systems and air and sea transport, as referred to in the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility. A regular monitoring and evaluation of the plan with the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities should be conducted within specified periods of time and sanctions provided in case of non-compliance.

Qatar

19. The Committee is concerned about the absence of specific legal and policy frameworks to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to all

facilities and services open or provided to the public, including access to information, communications and transport.

20. In light of its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party adopt legislation for barrier-free public facilities and services. It also recommends a comprehensive accessibility plan with the allocation of sufficient resources, enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance, and a road map based on detailed data with a concrete timeframe. The Committee also recommends that the State party promote universal design for all buildings and public services, information and social communication media, transport and services open to the public, and that it incorporate accessibility standards into public procurement criteria.

Ukraine

17. The Committee is concerned that implementation of the 2009 action plan “Ukraine without Barriers” by public and private entities is not monitored. It is also concerned that under the Regulation of the Urban Planning Act of 2011 constructors are no longer required to obtain experts examination of buildings in terms of their accessibility. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that most public facilities, including health and education facilities and communication services remain inaccessible for persons with disabilities, including children.

18. The Committee recommends the State party to efficiently implement its plan “Ukraine without Borders” and monitor implementation of accessibility standards by:

- (a) clearly defining the organs with the mandate to monitor the implementation at all levels;**
 - (b) capacity-building and continuous training in charge of monitoring;**
 - (c) involving organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring;**
- and**

(d) imposing effective sanctions on those who fail to apply accessibility standards.

19. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure access to premises open to the public for persons with disabilities, including children and especially deaf persons, blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities, by providing sign language interpretation, Braille print signage, and augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms. In doing so, the Committee recommends to consult its General comment no. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Cook Islands

19. The Committee is concerned that the review of compliance of the Building Code in relation to the Convention has not been conducted, and progress on accessibility to existing public buildings and services, footpaths and street signage, information and communication, public service provision, air and sea transport has been limited.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Review the Building Code in consultation with disabled persons organisations;

Adopt a legally bound accessibility action plan with benchmarks, indicators and timeline, to cover all aspects of the built environment, public service provision, information and communications, air and sea transport, as referred to in the Committee’s General Recommendation 2, and regular monitoring and evaluation of the plan with the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities to eliminate all existing barriers within specified periods of time.

Croatia

15. The Committee is concerned that accessibility to buildings, places, transportation and information and communication is still rather low, especially outside of the capital-city area. The Committee is concerned that accessibility is narrowly construed to pertain to the physical environment and transportation, whereas information and communication services are neglected.

16. The Committee recommends that the State Party assess accessibility with respect to buildings, places and transportation as well as accessibility to information and communication services, as referred to in the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014), and adopts action plans to improve accessibility with clearly defined and realistic deadlines and indicators. Organizations of persons with disabilities should be involved in planning and implementation of these accessibility plans. It further recommends allocating sufficient resources to make public and private transportation accessible.

Czech Republic

17. The Committee notes with concern that provisions of the Building Act on ensuring accessibility are still not fully implemented. Furthermore, the Committee notes that deaf persons, blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities still face challenges in accessing premises open to the public due to lack of sign language interpretation, Braille print signage, and augmentative and alternative communication and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms.

18. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen the monitoring of implementation of accessibility standards by:

- (a) clearly defining the organs with the mandate to monitor the implementation;**
- (b) capacity-building and continuous training in charge of monitoring;**
- (c) involving organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring; and**
- (d) sanctioning those who fail to apply accessibility standards.**

19. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure access to premises open to the public for persons with disabilities, especially deaf persons, blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities, by providing sign language interpretation, Braille print signage, and augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms.

Dominican Republic

16. The Committee notes with concern that action on accessibility on the metro and the renovation of public facilities is very limited. It is also concerned about the lack of technical standards, manuals and protocols on accessibility, of effective monitoring mechanisms and of any national plan covering all public buildings and spaces. It also notes the lack of mechanisms to involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of accessibility plans covering all the points contained in the Convention.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt standards and regulations on accessibility to the physical environment, transport, information and communication, in line with the Convention and in keeping with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on article 9: Accessibility, and that it implement accessibility plans with measurable goals and time frames in the short and medium term, as well as sanctions for non-compliance. It also recommends that adequate budgetary funds be allocated to implement municipal accessibility plans and to ensure monitoring and evaluation of those plans by organizations of persons with disabilities.

Germany

21. The Committee is concerned about: a) the lack of binding obligations for private entities, particularly private media and websites, to avoid creating new barriers and eliminate existing barriers relating to accessibility; b) the inadequate implementation of regulations governing accessibility and universal design.

22. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its General Comment No. 2 (2014) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Introduce targeted and effective measures, such as compulsory obligations, monitoring mechanisms, and effective penalties for infringement, to extend accessibility for persons with disabilities in all sectors and areas of life, including the private sector;**

(b) Encourage public and private broadcasting bodies to evaluate their work comprehensively regarding the implementation of the right to accessibility, especially on the use of sign language.

Mongolia

17. The Committee is concerned that the State party's measures on accessibility have tended to be limited to the physical aspects of accessibility and overlooks other barriers posed by information and communication technologies (ICT). In particular, the Committee is concerned that Braille and sign language have not been legally recognised in the State party and that there is currently only one television channel with severely limited broadcasts of accessible content. Furthermore, while noting the positive steps taken by the State party to enact legislation for accessibility, the Committee is concerned that resource allocation and enforcement measures for the effective implementation of accessibility legislation remains inadequate.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party broaden its policy for accessibility to include removing barriers to accessing Information and Communication Technologies in order to enhance possibilities for participation of persons with disabilities in society. It recommends to the State party to provide legal recognition for sign language and Braille, and take measures to improve the quantity and diversity of accessible content in its media. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party increase its resource allocation for the implementation of measures to ensure accessibility of public transport, buildings and public spaces. The Committee also recommends that the State party strengthen its monitoring and enforcement mechanisms on accessibility. This should include ensuring commensurate sanctions for the non-fulfilment of accessibility standards stipulated by legislation, in line with the Convention and the Committee's General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Turkmenistan

21. The Committee is concerned at the insufficient implementation of the accessibility related procedures of the Social Protection Code, in particular in rural areas, and at the lack of information on the existence of accessibility standards, any monitoring mechanism and system of sanctions.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive accessibility plan with sufficient resources, including establishing enforceable and deterrent sanctions for non-compliance as well as a roadmap based on detailed data in accordance with article 9 of the Convention as elaborated in the Committee's General Comment N.2, which sets benchmarks for the removal of existing barriers, and promote universal design for all buildings and public services, information and social communication media, transports and services open to the public, in urban and rural areas included.

New Zealand

19. The Committee notes the review into access to building for people with disabilities which the Government commissioned in late 2013. This review is now being evaluated by a reference group.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party enact measures to ensure that all public buildings, as well as public web pages providing services for all, are made accessible to persons with disabilities, and recommends that consideration be given to ensuring that new future private houses are made fully accessible. The Committee also recommends that the exemption of factories and industrial premises where fewer than 10 people are employed, from the accessibility requirements of the Building Act 2004 and the Building Code, be discontinued.

Denmark

26. The Committee is concerned at the absence of comprehensive measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, and to other facilities and services open to or provided to the public, both in urban and rural areas. The Committee also notes with concern the lack of systematic compliance with the Building Regulations and the limited access to transport. The Committee further notes with concern that information on public websites is not systematically published in accessible formats.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive plan to ensure to all persons with disabilities access to facilities, information and services, which would include concrete objectives, time frames, budgets, sanctions and evaluation, as elaborated in the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) conduct continuous training on universal design and accessibility standards, including the Building Regulations, for relevant professionals, and systematically enforce sanctions for those who fail to implement accessibility standards; (b) ensure that private entities that offer public transport and other services observe accessibility requirements; and (c) adopt regulations on digital accessibility and access to information technology and communication, and promote the responsibility of public institutions to present information and communications on its websites in accessible formats, in accordance with international standards.

28. The Committee is concerned that television programmes on the KVF public service channel in the Faroe Islands are only subtitled and/or interpreted into sign language if they are considered to be of "major interest and significance in society".

29. The Committee requests that the Government of the Faroe Islands ensure access, both for people who are deaf and for those who are hard of hearing, to all the programmes broadcast by KVF.

Republic of Korea

17. The Committee is concerned about the low number of accessible buses and taxis in rural and urban areas. It is also concerned that accessibility standards for buildings are restricted by minimum size, capacity and date of construction and have not yet been applied to all public buildings. The Committee is further concerned that many websites remain inaccessible for persons with visual impairment, and that web accessibility catering for each disability type, such as hearing impairment and intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, remains weak.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party review current public transportation policies, with a view to ensuring that persons with disabilities can use all types of public transportation safely and conveniently. It encourages the State party to apply accessibility standards to all public facilities and workplaces, regardless of their size, capacity or date of construction, in accordance with article 9 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility. The Committee further recommends that the State party amend the relevant laws to ensure that all persons with disabilities can gain access to information via Internet websites on an equal basis with others, and facilitate access to smart phones for persons with visual and other impairments.

Belgium

21. The Committee is concerned about poor accessibility for persons with disabilities, the absence of a national plan with clear targets and the fact that accessibility is not a priority. It notes that government action has focused primarily on accessibility for persons with physical disabilities and that few measures have been taken to promote accessibility for persons with hearing, visual, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a legal framework with specific, binding benchmarks for accessibility, including in respect of buildings, roads and

transport, services, and e-accessibility. This legal framework should also provide for the monitoring of accessibility and set out a detailed time frame for monitoring and evaluating the incremental changes made to infrastructure. Dissuasive penalties for non-compliance with these provisions must be incorporated into the legal framework. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that public authorities issuing building permits receive training on accessibility and universal design. In that regard, the Committee recommends that the State party develop a coherent accessibility strategy, including a national plan with clear short-, medium- and long-term objectives. It recommends that all aspects of accessibility should be promoted, in accordance with the Convention, and in the light of the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014), with specific regard to sign-language accessibility. Sign language should be made available across the country in order to ensure access to public services for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with other citizens, in the various official languages and in different formats, regardless of place of residence, and particularly for procedures relating to law and order.

Ecuador

22. The Committee is concerned that: (a) The concept of accessibility contained in the Ecuadorian Technical Regulation does not cover matters relating to information and communication, including information and communication technology (ICT) and simplified language tools, as set out in the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility; (b) Contrary to the provision contained in the Committee's general comment No. 2, public transport networks in Ecuador are not yet accessible to persons with disabilities, who have to use more challenging transport options to carry out their daily activities; (c) Although guidelines on the accessibility of web content were adopted in January 2014, their implementation has been delayed, particularly in the case of websites providing government information.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Amend the Ecuadorian Technical Regulation so that it includes specific accessibility requirements relating to information, communication and technology and to simplified language tools; (b) Launch a comprehensive programme to adapt public transport in Ecuador, including in rural areas, so that all transport becomes accessible within a pre-agreed time frame; (c) Step up efforts to implement regulation NTE INEN-ISO/IEC 40500:2012 "Information technology – World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0", so that persons with disabilities can have access to the Internet and ensure that the Guidelines are binding, particularly on the websites of public institutions offering various services to persons with disabilities.

Mexico

19. The Committee notes with concern that the State party's current legal framework on accessibility for persons with disabilities does not address all the aspects covered by article 9 of the Convention. The Committee is also concerned that the State party has no specific mechanisms for evaluating compliance with accessibility legislation in all the areas covered by the Convention.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Accelerate the regulation process in connection with the laws on accessibility, in keeping with the Committee's general comment No. 2 on accessibility (2014);
- (b) Establish monitoring and complaints mechanisms and define effective penalties for non-compliance with accessibility laws;
- (c) Take measures to ensure that accessibility plans encompass existing buildings, in addition to new constructions;
- (d) Design and implement a national accessibility plan applicable to the physical environment, transport, information and communications, including information and

communications systems and technologies, and other services and facilities open or provided to the public; and

(e) Ensure that private entities duly consider all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities and those that are subject to penalties for non-compliance.

Sweden

25. The Committee is concerned that rules pertaining to accessibility in buildings are not adhered to, and notes that public procurement procedures are not used to fully foster accessibility.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that municipalities and local authorities are sensitized about the accessibility principle, with a view to aligning relevant local and regional laws, such as building and planning codes, in accordance with article 9 of the Convention; that they have the necessary funding and guidance to monitor, evaluate and secure full accessibility to buildings; and that the reasonable accommodation needs of persons with disabilities are integrated in municipal planning as appropriate. The Committee further recommends that accessibility requirements be systematically included in all public procurement agreements.

27. The Committee is concerned that public material published by the State, regions, county councils and municipalities, including new laws, statutes and regulations, are rarely published in accessible formats.

28. The Committee encourages the State party to supplement the regulatory framework concerning the public sector's responsibility to present its information and communications in accessible formats.

Azerbaijan

22. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the existence of an accessibility plan and at reports that public transport and other public buildings remain inaccessible by persons with disabilities due to existing barriers.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive accessibility plan in accordance with article 9 of the Convention, which sets benchmarks for the removal of existing barriers and promotes universal design for all buildings. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party allocate sufficient resources for the monitoring of the implementation of accessibility standards throughout the State party, including establishing enforceable and deterrent sanctions for non-compliance. The State party should also intensify its efforts aimed at adapting information into accessible formats and the use of modern accessible information communication technology systems.

Costa Rica

19. The Committee is concerned that measures to implement the Act on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 7600) in the area of accessibility have focused on physical and public transport accessibility, while disregarding information and communication accessibility. The Committee is further concerned that only 18 out of 81 municipalities have Municipal Commissions on Accessibility and Disability and that the impact of these commissions is not known.

20. The Committee urges the State party to adopt regulations on accessibility to the physical environment, transport, information and communication, in line with the Convention, and to implement accessibility plans with measurable goals and timetables, as well as sanctions for non-compliance. The Committee urges the State party to comply with the statutory deadline of 2014 for ensuring full accessibility to public transport. It also recommends that adequate budgetary funds be allocated to implement municipal accessibility plans and to ensure monitoring and evaluation of those plans by organizations of persons with disabilities.

Australia

20. The Committee notes that the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 and the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010, introduce regulations to address accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities. However, it remains concerned at the level of compliance with accessibility standards and regulations.

21. The Committee recommends that sufficient resources be allocated to ensure monitoring and implementation of the Disability Standards and requirements.

Austria

23. The Committee commends the State party for its achievements in the area of accessibility to buildings, to transport and to information. The Committee notes that various cities and Länder have developed plans for improving accessibility to facilities. However, it is concerned that accessibility is poor in some areas, particularly outside Austria's larger cities. It is particularly concerned that, in at least one Länd, there is a minimum number of people set for requiring a barrier-free environment for public facilities. In addition, accessibility shall also consist of barrier-free info-communication accessibility in Austria's media, at ORF in particular.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party develop an overarching inclusive approach to accessibility in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention. The building standards should not be limited to buildings of a minimum size or capacity, but should apply to all public facilities in accordance with article 9. The Committee also recommends decreasing the timelines of staged plans that currently operate in some cities and Länder and also the plan for subtitling ORF programs.

El Salvador

23. The Committee is concerned at the absence of a mechanism monitoring compliance with accessibility standards and the lack of technical aids provided to low-income persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of efforts to ensure access in rural areas and community services.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a mechanism to monitor laws on accessibility, involving organizations of persons with disabilities, and impose penalties for non-compliance;

(b) Urgently adopt an action plan on accessibility that includes all aspects covered in article 9 of the Convention, allocates a larger budget and focuses on rural areas.

Paraguay

23. The Committee notes the approval of the Act on Accessibility of the Physical Environment for Persons with Disabilities; it is, however, concerned at the complete absence of any standards for the accessibility of information and communication and of information and communication technologies (ICTs), the gaps in implementation, the narrow definition of accessibility and in particular the lack of mechanisms to monitor the adoption of accessibility standards. It also regrets the absence of specific action to ensure the accessibility of public facilities, and of guarantees of implementation in the private sector, and the complete lack of information or provisions on accessibility in the departments and municipalities of Paraguay.

24. The Committee urges the State party to implement the Act on Accessibility of the Physical Environment by allocating financial resources, setting time frames for modification of infrastructure and buildings, and establishing oversight mechanisms and means of penalizing non-compliance, in consultation with disabled persons' organizations, which should be authorized to assist in monitoring implementation.

25. The Committee recognizes the State party's efforts to train the staff of public transport systems. It regrets, however, the absence of a legal framework instituting a requirement of accessibility in public transport.

26. The Committee urges the State party to adopt provisions and instruments regulating and implementing, in accordance with articles 1 and 9 of the Convention, the accessibility of public transport at the national level that covers infrastructure and conveyances, signage and map design in accessible and easy-to-understand formats.

Argentina

17. The Committee takes note of the State party's current legislation on accessibility for persons with disabilities. However, it notes with concern that, despite the establishment of the Advisory and Monitoring Committee, the State party does not have effective mechanisms for overseeing and evaluating compliance with accessibility legislation in all the areas covered by the Convention or for regulating and monitoring the imposition of sanctions for non-compliance. The Committee is also concerned about the challenge posed by the State party's federal structure in terms of the achievement of full accessibility for all persons with disabilities in every province and municipality in its territory.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party establish effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating compliance with accessibility laws in the State party and that it take the necessary measures to facilitate the alignment of the relevant federal and provincial legislation with the Convention and the development and implementation of accessibility plans. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure that private entities take due account of all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

China

17. While appreciating the state party's advancements concerning accessibility in urban areas, the Committee takes note of the lack of information concerning both the accessibility in rural areas as well as the effects of non-compliance with accessibility measures and monitoring and evaluating accessibility

18. The Committee asks the state party to provide such information in its next report. Considering the large proportion of persons with disabilities who live in rural areas (75 %), it specifically urges the state party to ensure that accessibility is guaranteed not only in urban, but also in rural areas. It also asks the state party not to restrict the barrier-free infrastructure to environments often frequented by persons with disabilities.

Hong-Kong

61. While noting that Hong Kong, China, has improved the barrier-free access of government buildings, leisure and cultural facilities and public housings in recent years, the Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities still face difficulties in terms of accessibility. The Committee especially regrets that the building standards set out in the "Design Manual – Barrier Free Access" do not apply retroactively and that they are not applicable to premises under the management of the government or the housing authority. The Committee is concerned that the monitoring mechanism to evaluate the accessibility of buildings is insufficient, thus restricting the persons with disabilities' ability to live independently in the community.

62. The Committee encourages Hong Kong, China, to continue reviewing the "Design Manual-Barrier Free Access" and apply these standards retroactively as well as to premises under the management of the government or the housing authority. It recommends that Hong Kong, China, strengthen the monitoring process of accessibility.

Hungary

23. The Committee notes with appreciation that the State party has set deadlines for fulfilling the provisions of the law for accessibility of public services rendered by the state (31 December 2010), the accessibility of educational, health and social services as well as that of municipality client services (31 December 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively) and has allocated considerable funds for the removal of barriers by 2011, 2012 and 2013. However,

the Committee is concerned that the above-mentioned deadlines have not been fully met and that there are initiatives to postpone them further. The Committee is also concerned about the financial challenges faced by the authorities charged with monitoring the implementation of the accessibility legislation.

24. The Committee calls upon the State party to undertake efforts to meet the deadlines for removal of accessibility barriers set in its own legislation and policies, without any postponement of the set deadlines. The Committee calls upon the State party to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms additionally in order to ensure accessibility and to continue providing sufficient funds for the removal of accessibility barriers and the continued training of relevant monitoring staff.

Peru

20. The Committee regrets the lack of information on the level of implementation of the State's requirement to have, by 2010, 60 per cent of public facilities accessible for persons with disabilities, as well as the absence of information on compliance with accessibility standards by private companies.

21. The Committee urges the State party to speed up the plans and programmes directed to make public facilities, communications and public transportation, in the urban and rural areas, accessible for persons with disabilities and to ensure that private entities duly take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Spain

27. The Committee takes note that Act 26/2011 introduces regulatory amendments that will shorten the timelines for meeting accessibility requirements in public facilities and with respect to goods and services available to the public. However, it remains concerned at the low level of compliance with these requirements, in particular at the regional and local levels, in the private sector, and in relation to existing facilities. The Committee is aware of situations of discrimination faced by air passengers with disabilities, including situations of denial of boarding. The Committee reminds the State party that article 9 of the Convention also requires States to ensure access to information and communication.

28. The Committee recommends that sufficient financial and human resources be allocated as soon as possible to implement, promote and monitor compliance with accessibility legislation through national measures as well as through international cooperation.

Tunisia

20. The Committee takes note of the National Strategy on environmental management and the implementation of the first Action Plan in this area, covering the period 2008-2010. However, it remains concerned that gaps continue to impede full accessibility for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to all facilities and services open or provided to the public, including access to information, communications and transport.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of laws on accessibility in order to identify, monitor and address those gaps. It recommends that awareness-raising programmes be conducted for the relevant professional groups and all stakeholders. It further recommends that sufficient financial and human resources be allocated as soon as possible to implement the national plan on accessibility for existing and future infrastructure.