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Documentation of the Work of the Commission for Social
Development (CSocD)



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Conference A

Commission for Social Development (CSocD)

Committee Staff

Director	Daniel Sweeney
Assistant Director	Analeigh Willett
Chair	Kilian Lofent
Rapporteur	Juliane Selle

Agenda

- I. Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development
- II. Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees
- III. Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
CSocD/1/1	Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development	Adopted without a vote
CSocD/1/2	Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development	Adopted without a vote
CSocD/1/3	Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development	Adopted without a vote
CSocD/1/4	Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development	Adopted without a vote
CSocD/1/5	Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development	Adopted without a vote
CSocD/1/6	Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The Commission for Social Development held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development
- II. Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees
- III. Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The session was attended by representatives of 31 Member States and 1 Observer. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, III, beginning discussion on the topic of "Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development."

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 10 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics ranging from education to infrastructure, persons with disabilities in least developed countries, laws, and the use of forums. Delegates worked diligently and collaboratively to develop specific and creative ideas, as well as to merge their papers. Additional key aspects, such as family support programs, grassroots projects, information sharing, health care, and accessibility issues, were debated in an effort to strive for comprehensive solutions.

On Wednesday, six draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had any amendments. The committee adopted six resolutions following voting procedure, all six were adopted by acclamation. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including education, awareness, infrastructure, and data sharing. With the remaining time, the body moved into discussing the second topic of "Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees." While working groups formed, the Dais ultimately did not accept any draft resolutions in the time remaining in committee session.



Code: Res/1/1

Committee: Commission for Social Development

Topic: Data Sharing with Emphasis on Women with Disabilities

1 *The Commission for Social Development (CSocD),*

2
3 *Appreciating* the efforts made by the United Nations Disability Statistics Programme (UNDSP) in providing
4 statistical data that allows for a better understanding of the scope of issues for persons with disabilities (PWDs),

5
6 *Recognizing* Commitment 5 made by the World Summit for Social Development outcome document, the
7 *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development*, to eliminate all obstacles that PWDs face in social and economic
8 life and providing equality and equity for women,

9
10 *Acknowledging* the efforts made through the adoption of the *Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities*
11 (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol and the importance of article 31 statistical data research that establishes countries
12 have to make efforts to collect data of quality that could be shared and compared with United Nations (UN),

13
14 *Expressing* appreciation to Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in their efforts to provide updated research and
15 data on people with disabilities all around the world,

16
17 *Worried* about the lack of disaggregation on disabled women data at this time, and hoping for a more specific
18 database that allows comparative analysis between governments, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), NGOs
19 and civil associations, expecting this to allow more effective policies regarding equality for PWDs, especially
20 women,

21
22 *Guided* by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 10, and 17 which focus on health and wellness,
23 socioeconomic inclusion, and collection of disaggregated data for the benefit of persons with disabilities which
24 recommends the utilization of data and creation of policy which is inclusive of all persons,

25
26 *Recognizing* the efforts made by the United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development (UNDSPD) in
27 collecting and displaying data that provide individuals information on gender inequalities, but still stressing the lack
28 of information about disability prevalence among women population in the database,

29
30 *Recalling* efforts made in creation of gender-based data collection during the 59th Session for Commission on the
31 Status of Women (CSW) and its integral progress towards equality especially for women in providing and
32 organizing a global forum and developing methodology and capacity building,

33
34 *Emphasizing* that the social, political, and economic challenges associated with disability are often and especially
35 pronounced for women, that women's rights must be taken into consideration when creating disability rights policy,
36 and that the ultimate goals of the rights of persons with disabilities and gender equality policy intersect,

37
38 1. *Recommends* Member States to collaborate effectively in network sharing modeling the use of the UNDSPD to
39 provide evidence, annually monitoring the demographic changes of the population with disabilities, including
40 woman and children, as well as monitoring technological advances and the effectiveness of existing policies
41 that attend disabled population:

- 42
43 a. Providing interactive webpage where users can subscribe in order to receive mails with information
44 about the most recent scientific and technological advances about the disability they are interested in
45 receiving information;
- 46
47 b. Setting recognized universities, research laboratories, scientific journals, NGOs and governments as
48 major suppliers of information, which will be classified and distributed to the registered users through
49 the database interactive web-page;

- 50
51 c. Stressing to Member States the importance of collaboration with NGO's in research studies and data
52 collection for inequalities in gender disabilities in less developed and rural countries;
53
- 54 2. *Further* requests the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to create a dialogue with Member States that
55 women with disabilities are the most vulnerable and the most marginalized and must be allotted specific
56 attention in the mission to collect data;
57
- 58 3. *Directs* attention to Article 31 of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol and the importance of data collection to
59 implement policies that reflect the needs of persons with disabilities emphasizing women;
60
- 61 4. *Recommends* the exploration of how gender power relations affect females with disabilities in health, education
62 and employment systems through the use of sex-disaggregated data, gender frameworks, and questions;
63
- 64 5. Encourages ECOSOC to create a dialogue between Member States to establish a reporting system collaborating
65 with local community leaders and professionals to ensure women's disabilities are statistically reported;
66
- 67 6. *Endorses* the inclusion of human rights through data sharing programs which:
68
- 69 a. Reaffirms disability rights and promoting their importance to establish and overcome prejudice and
70 inequalities;
71
- 72 b. Expresses the belief that equal and dignified treatment is the basis of any harmonious community;
73
- 74 c. Focuses on a gender inclusive data sharing program that integrates women and girls living with
75 disabilities into all aspects of society;
76
- 77 7. *Further* invites the international community to utilize existing programs and research database such as the
78 UNDSPD as a reference to implicate new disaggregated statistics;
79
- 80 8. *Suggests* ECOSOC to create a dialogue between Member States to have greater transparency for women with
81 disabilities to empower gender equality;
82
- 83 9. *Encourages* ECOSOC to create a dialogue between Member States to create policies in regards to persons with
84 disability which includes legislation regarding women's rights with a particular focus on:
85
- 86 a. Policy created with differences based on gender taken into account;
87
- 88 b. Civil society that proactively includes women and women's issues that relate to the rights of persons
89 with disabilities.



Code: CSocD/1/2

Committee: Commission for Social Development

Topic: Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Person with Disabilities in Society and Development

1 *The Commission for Social Development,*

2
3 *Acknowledging* the ratification of the *Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)* by 160 Member
4 States that promotes the security of equal opportunities and quality living standards for persons with disabilities
5 (PWDs),

6
7 *Recognizing* the importance of a legal basis for the parameters of disability in ensuring fair justice systems and
8 legislative outcomes, through giving officials and legislators a reference to establish who is legally a PWD, reducing
9 ambiguity and limiting potential for corruption,

10
11 *Calling* attention to the usefulness of expert knowledge pertaining to various topics through in-depth discussions,
12 such as social development panels hosted by CSocD on “Promoting Integrated Policies for Poverty Eradication:
13 Youth Development in the 2030 Agenda” and “Leaving No One Behind: Poverty and Disability,”

14
15 *Conscious* of efforts and initiatives specifically pertaining to PWDs by Member States, non-governmental
16 organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and organizations of PWDs, such as the implementation
17 of modern building codes that require facilities to have adequate accessibility,

18
19 *Drawing* attention to the success of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development’s (HLPF) yearly
20 eight-day sessions under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as central platform that
21 allows the participation of all Member States to follow-up and review the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

22
23 *Aware* that input from PWDs needs to be incorporated into discussions regarding policies that affect them as
24 modelled in the Human Rights Council resolution 28/37 of 2014 entitled, “Thematic study on the right of persons
25 with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community,”

26
27 *Recalling* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which particularly pertain to PWDs including SDG 4, which
28 ensures inclusive and equitable quality education to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all including PWDs,
29 SDG 8, which promotes sustained, inclusive and sustained economic growth as well as full and productive
30 employment and decent work for all including PWDs, and SDG 10, which promotes reducing income inequality and
31 recognizes the significant income gap affecting PWDs,

32
33 *Realizing* the success of the Voluntary National Review (VNR), an ECOSOC initiative, which seeks to accelerate
34 the domestic implementation of SDGs by Member States through the creation and bolstering of legislation
35 pertaining to these goals through partnerships and dialogue with national stakeholders,

36
37 1. *Urges* all Member States who have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CRPD and to comply with all aspects,
38 such as health, education, employment, and participation rights, to achieve all included goals and directives to
39 emphasize the rights of PWDs to have equal opportunities;

40
41 2. *Encourages* the international community to develop, if they have not already done so, a national standard
42 definition of a PWD through legislation which should:

43
44 a. Correspond with the standards set in the CRPD;

45
46 b. Function as a legal basis for future reference, and to serve as a foundation for anti-discriminatory
47 policies and legislation regarding PWDs;

48

- 49 c. Facilitate fair conduct towards individuals defined as PWDs in accordance with a Member State's laws
50 by providing a legal definition to use in legal cases;
51
- 52 d. Provide a framework that will allow for the identification of PWDs, specifically those who are or who
53 may become recipients of state-sponsored financial aid and other forms of assistance;
54
- 55 3. *Strongly* recommends that topics and policies pertaining to PWDs be discussed annually within an annual forum
56 similar in structure to the HLPF, to serve as a policy-making aid for any interested party;
57
- 58 4. *Seeks* for civil society organizations and organizations of PWDs, such as Disabled Peoples' International and
59 the European Disability Forum, to reach out to individuals affected with disabilities to facilitate the participation
60 of individual persons directly affected by either physical, mental, or other disabilities in the annual forum;
61
- 62 5. *Desires* equitable and gender balanced input in the form of testimonials, research, information, and policy ideas
63 regarding PWDs to be presented at the annual forum from:
64
- 65 a. NGOs primarily focused on human rights and PWDs such as Access Israel, Association for Women's
66 Rights in Development, European Centre of Disabled Persons, and the Independent Living Centre for
67 Women with Disabilities;
68
- 69 b. Experts (i.e. psychologists, medical professionals, counselors, etc.) that are focused on or work with
70 PWDs;
71
- 72 c. A diverse variety of PWDs and related parties (family, caretakers, etc.), ensuring equitable
73 representation from multiple regions, different economic circumstances, and without gender
74 discrimination;
75
- 76 6. *Recommends* that digital forms for submissions be made available for the annual forum to encourage PWDs to
77 participate and offer input provided their inability to attend or directly participate;
78
- 79 7. *Invites* the international community to participate, at their discretion, in an annual forum through:
80
- 81 a. Contribution of research pertaining to obstacles that PWDs face, such as stigmatization, equitable
82 accessibility to education and the workforce, as well as disability friendly infrastructure, and other
83 pertinent topics;
84
- 85 b. Reporting on implemented programs and services adopted domestically with respect to the obligations
86 outlined by the Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
87
- 88 c. Sharing of preferred policy recommendations with respect to PWDs with other Member States based
89 on their perceived success;
90
- 91 d. Acknowledgement of international policy recommendations formulated by ECOSOC and CSocD
92 pursuant to the study and consideration of existing policies by these bodies;
93
- 94 8. *Strongly encourages* that the policy recommendations resulting from the annual forum are in alignment with:
95
- 96 a. CRPD goals and initiatives pertaining to policies, programs, and services;
97
- 98 b. Human Rights Council resolution 28/37 of 2014 recognizing the right of PWDs to live autonomously;
99
- 100 c. SDGs 4, 8, and 10 as they pertain to PWDs;
101
- 102 9. *Welcomes* Member States to hold an annual domestic VNR, following the attendance of the international
103 community at an annual forum, under the following framework:
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- a. That the VNR potentially discuss means to consider implementing new policy or bolstering existing policy with regards to the deliberations and insight gained from previously attended forums;
 - b. That domestic policy measures that are implemented or amended be consistent with the respective national definitions on PWDs that Member States have adopted or plan to adopt;
 - c. That the VNR potentially regroup relevant national stakeholders relevant to persons with disabilities such as members of government, civil society, experts and PWDs;
 - d. That stakeholders have the possibility to share knowledge and expertise which could potentially lead to the drafting of policies relating to PWDs.



Code: CSocD/1/3

Committee: Commission for Social Development

Topic: Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Person with Disabilities in Society and Development

1 *The Commission for Social Development,*

2
3 *Recognizing* the 2006 United Nations (UN) *Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD), the first
4 human rights treaty of the 21st century to specifically enumerate the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) as
5 part of a comprehensive human rights treaty- requiring Member States to ensure the accessibility of all to physical
6 environments (Article 9),

7
8 *Regrettably* noting the safety concerns and the failure of some buildings to uphold the standards of article 9 of the
9 CRPD and noncompliance with the codes developed by the International Codes Council (ICC),

10
11 *Concerned* by the lack of accessible buildings for PWDs as evidenced by Handicap International's 2009 policy
12 paper on accessibility, which aimed at raising awareness to the problem of a lack of handicap accessible buildings
13 particularly in developing countries, finds PWDs having unequal access to buildings including dignified housing,
14 public and private educational institutions, and public government buildings,

15
16 *Alarmed* by the few forms of accessible public transportation for persons with disabilities, acknowledging that in a
17 2004 survey from the National Organization on Disability (NOD) nearly a third of those with disabilities reported
18 that inadequate transportation was a problem for them and over half of those respondents ranked it as major
19 problem, and knowing the detrimental effects this may have on their educational and employment opportunities,

20
21 *Seeking* to include all eligible persons with disabilities in the voting processes of their own countries, aware that,
22 even with the assistance of refined programs such as the 1990 United States' American Disability Act (ADA),
23 according to a 2012 survey funded by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission through the Research Alliance for
24 Accessible Voting (RAAV), 30% of disabled voters reported difficulty voting at their assigned US polling places,
25 both in accessing the building and in the available methods of voting provided, giving credence to the logic that
26 Member States without such assistance programs may see even higher rates of voting difficulty or even inability to
27 vote,

- 28
29 1. *Requests* Member States to uphold standards in article 9 of the CRPD which enumerates that all persons,
30 including PWDs, have the right to access their physical environment- allowing them to be fully integrated
31 members of all sectors of society- in order to ensure the widespread existence of disability friendly
32 infrastructure, such as wheelchair ramps and handicap accessible entrances, and eliminate obstacles and barriers
33 that preclude feasible access by PWDs;
- 34
35 2. *Encourages* Member States to ensure equal access by PWDs to buildings through the implementation of codes
36 developed by the International Codes Council especially concerning already existing structures, facility
37 accessibility, and means of egress (accessible exit in emergency situations for PWDs);
- 38
39 3. *Draws* attention to the need for Member States to expand their public transportation systems to include
40 disability friendly features such as wheelchair ramps into buses, ensuring bus stop rain covers include space for
41 wheelchairs under the shading, ramp access to metro facilities, and seamless transitions onto subways or metros
42 to ensure wheels do not become stuck in the cracks between the station floor and vehicle floor, in order to invite
43 PWDs to be able to use these public services as a part of an inclusive society;
- 44
45 4. *Strongly* supports the inclusion of persons with disabilities particularly in political participation through
46 programs which endorse:
- 47
48 a. The social promotion of the right of all members of society, including PWDs, to be politically active
49 within their own governments;
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- b. The social promotion of the availability of disability friendly polling places in order to reassure PWDs that they are welcomed in such places;
 - c. Accessible public transit programs;
 - d. The implementation of a variety of methods of voting by Member States to accommodate PWDs including the use of sign language ballots, braille ballots, audio voting procedures, absentee ballots, and the use of online voting.



Code: CSocD/1/4

Committee: Commission for Social Development

Topic: Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development

1 *The Commission for Social Development,*

2
3 *Affirming* that persons with disabilities (PWDs) are humans with rights, not objects of charity, as emphasized by the
4 *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD) which empowers and emphasizes the fundamental
5 human rights of persons living with physical and mental disabilities,

6
7 *Recognizing* the social barriers, such as stigmas and disabilities, and the lack of accessibility for persons with
8 disabilities to complete regular tasks and social engagements including school, work, and transportation,

9
10 *Recognizing* the lack of representation on behalf of persons with disabilities in public offices,

11
12 *Acknowledging* the potential benefits campaigns to educate both youth and adults on the social inclusion of PWDs
13 along the guidelines set out in clause 1, sub-clauses 4 and 5 of General Assembly resolution 48/96 of 1996, entitled
14 “Standard Rules of Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,”

15
16 *Noting* the success of programs for the social integration of persons with disabilities within the framework of
17 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10 such as the Beyond Ability International (BAI) initiative which aims to
18 create a more accessible world for people with disabilities by offering a framework for government infrastructure,
19 facility audits, on-site training services for the public and private sector, and accessible transportation,

20
21 *Drawing* attention to December 3rd as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), instituted by the
22 United Nations in 1992, which has been influential in raising awareness for persons with disabilities,

23
24 *Highlighting* the mandate of CSocD per clause IV of Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 (XLI) of 1966
25 entitled, “Re-Appraisal of the Role of the Social Commission,” which clarifies the relationship between the CSocD
26 and ECOSOC,

27
28 *Emphasizing* the influential role being played by families, local communities, and national institutions in creating
29 awareness and providing support to individuals faced with disabilities,

30
31 *Expressing* the potential of the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) entitled NGO Committee on Social
32 Development, as host of the Civil Society Forum (CSO) to ensure equality for persons with disabilities,

33
34 *Encouraged* by the international support of several NGOs for the World Congress on Disabilities which facilitates
35 the integration of PWDs into society through de-stigmatization and awareness campaigns,

36
37 *Acknowledging* the benefits of ramps, elevators, auditory signals for crosswalks, and wheelchair friendly
38 environments to create more accessible public spaces, workplaces and public transportation, thereby reducing
39 inequalities and fostering a sense of belonging for persons with disabilities within local and national communities,

40
41 *Honoring* the efforts of local political, social, cultural, and religious leaders for their work to eliminate the negative
42 stigma concerning persons with disabilities in society and providing knowledge to misinformed individuals,

43
44 *Reaffirming* the importance of financial support by the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability to reinforce
45 healthcare, alternative therapies, as well as physical and emotional aid for persons with disabilities through the
46 International Donor Community,

47
48 *Observing* that online social network sites such as Twitter, YouTube and Facebook could be beneficial in global
49 campaigns to spread awareness about intolerances for persons with disabilities, in addition to non-digital platforms
50 such as public speaking,

51

- 52 1. *Invites* all Member States to ratify the CRPD with the goal of reducing discrimination and negative stigma in
53 society, ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities; with particular emphasis on Article 24 which
54 enables persons with disabilities to have access to a high quality and inclusive education system that are
55 essential to ensure them a future of opportunities;
56
- 57 2. *Encourages* Member States to work together within the mandate of the CSocD, the *Convention on the Rights of*
58 *Persons with Disabilities*, and the *Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities* to
59 improve domestic policy with respect to social acceptance of persons with disabilities via:
60
- 61 a. Development of creative and innovative national disability rights awareness programs that complement
62 and enhance the effectiveness of practical local initiatives outside the mandate of this Commission
63 that:
64
- 65 i. implement disability awareness programmes in schools;
66 ii. recognize disability rights issues in local civil society engagements;
67 iii. sanction charitable functions for accessible infrastructure funding;
68 iv. endorse accessibility initiatives and training in the workplace;
69 v. facilitation of community-led programs that focus on the social integration of persons with
70 disabilities in the workplace and in civil society;
71
- 72 b. Conscientious budgetary allocation and political initiatives to include persons with disabilities in vital
73 administrative and political decision-making roles;
74
- 75 c. Proactive inclusion of persons with disabilities along the guidelines set out in point 10 of the *Standard*
76 *Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities* that encourages civil society,
77 governments, NGOs, and industries to recognise the pre-existing International Day of Persons with
78 Disabilities; the theme of the last International Day of Persons with Disabilities was “Achieving 17
79 Goals for the future we want,” especially regarding the role of the SDGs in building a more inclusive
80 and equitable world for persons with disabilities, a t this occasion scientific and technological
81 advancements and new policies can be discussed to identify the principal challenges of each disability
82 policies implementation and present the best approaches to overcome challenges for respective
83 disabilities with emphasis on:
84
- 85 i. promoting full and equal opportunities and participation of persons with disabilities to
86 embrace the diversity within humanity;
87 ii. interaction through digital media outlets promoting the ability of raising awareness of all
88 forms of disability;
89 iii. encouragement of awareness via blogs and social media accounts, such as users sharing posts
90 as a celebration of the universality in support of this issue;
91
- 92 3. *Promotes* a social media fundraising campaign for users to raise money for their given charity related to people
93 with disabilities, in which they will post photos or video footage of their day in a superhero costume, whilst
94 incorporating the trending #Superhumans, inspired by the success of the 2012 Paralympics advertising
95 campaign;
96
- 97 4. *Acknowledges* that the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is held annually on the 3rd of December;
98
- 99 5. *Recommends* to the international community the implementation of a three-point action plan, EEE: Engage,
100 Educate, Encourage:
101
- 102 a. Engaging all citizens, community leaders and persons with disability through the implementation of
103 media campaigns in local schools and businesses that will require the involvement of both parties in an
104 effort to decrease the prevalence of negative stigmas by:
105
- 106 i. Suggesting the utilization of platforms such as billboards, physical media, social media and
107 news outlets available in schools and local businesses to engage the families and friends of

- 108 persons with disabilities along with the disabled persons in inclusive activities and awareness
109 training;
- 110
- 111 ii. Suggesting that NGOs consider organizing regionally specific campaigns, within their local
112 jurisdiction, tailored to the crucial needs identified in individual locations;
- 113
- 114 b. Educating the populace with the aim of reducing discriminatory practices towards persons with
115 disability and having inclusive education that:
- 116
- 117 i. Specifically, trains community leaders, religious leaders, and families with the goal of
118 combatting negative stigmas associated with disability, while recommending the training
119 comes from professionals within the community that have further education;
- 120
- 121 ii. Promotes training programs for community leaders by local NGOs;
- 122
- 123 iii. Integrates children with general education students through planned activities so they have
124 meaningful and monitored social interactions to prevent isolation;
- 125
- 126 c. Encourages all international organizations in acclimating persons with disabilities by creating a
127 common network of communication between them by encouraging face to face communication
128 through an annual symposium;
- 129
- 130 6. *Recommends* the expansion of the United Nations Enable with additional programs constructed in order to
131 educate local leaders and NGOs, facilitating the training specifically through existing bodies such as:
- 132
- 133 a. The Disability Equality Training program (DET) which provides assistance to these above-mentioned
134 actors in order to guide them through the process of integration into the working and education
135 environment such as job coaches;
- 136
- 137 b. The Disability Awareness Training program (DAT) which conveys the concept of different disabilities
138 to the participants of this program and assists them;
- 139
- 140 c. The Civil Society Forum hosted annually by the NGO Committee on Social Development;
- 141
- 142 7. *Endorses* the implementation of an International Support and Information Scheme (SIS) within Member States
143 regarding disability rights which will be responsible for:
- 144
- 145 a. Information outlets via a website and a social media platform, allowing for development of interactive
146 messaging networks for persons with disabilities to communicate with others affected by disability and
147 share experiences of being targets of discrimination;
- 148
- 149 b. Interactive messaging that can be hosted on a forum available from the website and social media
150 accounts;
- 151
- 152 c. Support groups that could allow individuals to work as a support system for one another, furthering
153 their abilities to overcome and address the inabilities or disability;
- 154
- 155 d. Additional support groups specializing in mental disability which could cater toward the specific needs
156 that this entails;
- 157
- 158 8. *Affirms* support for experts on the topic of disability rights issues to engage and promote disability awareness
159 through:
- 160
- 161 a. Endorsing the advertisement and organization of opportunities for persons with disabilities to share
162 their struggles and successes, creating an opening environment for the speaker to share their
163 experiences and hope for the audiences;

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- b. Encouraging the extension of such events to local communities, such as educational facilities, community halls, pop-up tents, and available facilities to ensure mass outreach;
- c. Ensuring that public speeches are recorded and uploaded onto an online feed to further expand program accessibility in a growing digitalized age.



Code: CSocD/1/5

Committee: Commission for Social Development

Topic: Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development

1 *The Commission for Social Development,*

2
3 *Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which outlines and defines the international rights*
4 *and freedoms of all people, including persons with disabilities (PWDs) and expressing its appreciation on the work*
5 *already done by the Member States of CSocD, to advance the rights of PWDs in the 2030 International*
6 *Development Agenda, with a focus on the the World Summit for Social Development outcome document, the*
7 *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,*

8
9 *Recalling articles 7 and 24 of the Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which highlight the*
10 *need for increased awareness and education among all those interacting with PWDs and that children with*
11 *disabilities should be included on an equal basis with children without disabilities and the benefits of integrating*
12 *schooling to include PWDs and recognizing the role of proper integration in reducing the stigma faced by PWDs*
13 *respectively,*

14
15 *Recognizing article 9 of the CRPD, emphasizing the limited access of educators to rural communities, and the*
16 *limited number of trained educators on PWDs are not adequately compensated for their efforts,*

17
18 *Strongly affirming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*
19 *particularly goals 8 and 10 that aim to improve the working conditions for disabled workers, and goal 4 to provide*
20 *equal education for students with disabilities and erasing exclusion in the education system,*

21
22 *Bearing in mind the need to expand the range of educational assistance and learning devices for PWDs in the*
23 *classroom in order to ensure that they have equal access to education,*

24
25 *Acknowledging the uniqueness as seen by the World Report on Disability of challenges faced by PWDs in accessing*
26 *education, such as physical access to buildings, labeling, adequate training for teachers, discrimination as they are*
27 *reported by the World Report on Disability 2011 of the World Health Organization (WHO),*

28
29 *Concerned by the inefficient methods of transportation recognized by the 2014 UN-HABITAT review on Poverty*
30 *and Sustainable Transport with special attention to rural transport as a problem directly related to poverty- including*
31 *poorly maintained roads, public transit vehicles like public buses which are not handicapped accessible, and the*
32 *absence or severe lack of any efficient forms of public transportation- for many students with disabilities in rural*
33 *areas to arrive at their educational institution and recognizing the deeply detrimental impacts such as prolonged or*
34 *frequent absences this may have on their educational progression and development and their later eligibility to enter*
35 *into the workforce,*

36
37 *Highlighting the importance of assisting with communication issues of PWDs, related to their disability, which often*
38 *leads to social and public isolation and complications to get necessary services e.g. at authorities,*

39
40 *Acknowledging the importance of ensuring that PWDs are provided with ample, relevant opportunities for*
41 *vocational training as stated in the CRPD in Article 24.5 expressing the need to ensure persons with disabilities*
42 *access to general tertiary education and vocational training,*

43
44 *Fully aware of the need to change public policy to reach out and accommodate the large percentage of unemployed*
45 *PWDs as an urgent matter due to PWDs being less employed and earning less once employed according to the*
46 *World Report on Disability done by WHO,*

47
48 *Expressing its highly appreciation of the Secretariat for the CRPD (SCRDP) and especially the great work of United*
49 *Nations Enable which serves as the official website for the SCRDP on raising awareness about disabilities,*

50

51 *Expressing* its appreciation for the Community-based rehabilitation guidelines, published by International Labor
52 Organization, UNESCO and WHO, as an effective strategy for increasing opportunities for people with disabilities,
53

54 *Recalling* the principles present on the CRPD and General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 2013 entitled, “Review of
55 the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social
56 Council” as extraordinary opportunities for disability-inclusive societies to ensure that PWDs are given the
57 necessary tools to claim their own rights and make decisions based and free and informed consent as well as being
58 active members of society,
59

60 *Noting* with satisfaction the efforts taken by Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Handicap
61 International (HI) and UN Agencies such as UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO who’s co-led the Educational Task
62 Force of the Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities on ensuring the wellbeing of persons with disabilities,
63

64 *Stressing* the critical need for gainful employment for all people to protect article 23.1 of UDHR outlining the rights
65 of free choice of employment, just and favorable conditions, and equal pay as well as equal work for all people, and
66 the discrimination that often occurs against PWDs in employment as stated in the 2011 World Health Survey which
67 reports a disparity of 12% between men with and without disabilities and a 10% disparity between women with and
68 without disabilities,
69

70 1. *Recommends* Member States to implement the points agreed upon by the community-based rehabilitation
71 projects (CBR) as a guide to:
72

- 73 a. Enable PWDs to access work opportunities, by actively promoting and facilitating the acquisition of
74 relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes;
75
- 76 b. Identify and overcome barriers that hinder the participation of students with disabilities in secondary
77 school vocational training and transition-to-work programs, for instance recommending the
78 implementation of the WHO Vision 2020 in order to intensify and accelerate the prevention of
79 blindness of achieve the goal of eliminating avoidable blindness by 2020;
80
- 81 c. Encourage and support self-employment by assisting PWDs and their families, either individually or in
82 groups, to access skills development as well as financial and material resources;
83
- 84 d. Enable PWDs to access and retain wage employment, by working to increase equal access and
85 treatment in the workplace, as well as access to services that lead to wage employment;
86
- 87 e. Encourage creating Vocational education for PWDs so that they can have the necessary skills to
88 function in the work force that would otherwise not be possible, these would be specified towards
89 teaching skills specifically for PWDs;
90
- 91 f. Identify, facilitate and promote access of PWDs to financial services;
92

93 2. *Encourages* Member States to review employment policies concerning PWDs, and to ensure work training
94 opportunities made available to this group are up to date and relevant, which will:
95

- 96 a. Increase meaningful employment opportunities for PWDs and allow them to be empowered through
97 financial independence;
98
- 99 b. Reduce stigma against the capabilities of PWDs by integrating them into the workplace alongside able-
100 bodied people;
101
- 102 c. Increase hire-ability of PWDs by making sure their skillsets are relevant in the ever-changing job
103 market;
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- 105 d. Ensure the policies espoused by Member States are effective at addressing the needs of their disabled
106 populations who are involved in the workplace;

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3. *Suggests* to improve parent/guardian and sibling assistance with a family support program, which will:
 - a. Guarantee ubiquitous tools and assistance, by specialized staff and NGOs volunteers;
 - b. Provide relief to students with disabilities which have not help in their families;
 - c. Provide involvement by coordinated and collaborative activities between PWDs, educators, and families in order to make their relation stronger;
 - d. Support families with one parent to ensure a stable balance between work and the fostering of the children with disabilities;
 4. *Suggests* that Member States immediately:
 - a. Supply information in areas such as brochures or websites in a more accessible way through providing it in braille, simplified language and audio versions;
 - b. Train a certain quota of at least 5% of officials at authorities to deal with communication issues related to disabilities in applicable forms, e.g. sign language for deaf people, so that officials are able to provide their service regardless of disability;
 - c. Distribute information to public and educational institutions through awareness campaigns on different disabilities and accompanied difficulties in society in order to fight stigmas, promote inclusion and enhancing the public consciousness on disabilities and related struggles;
 5. *Emphasizes* the integration of all students in a collaborative and cohesive learning environment for the purpose of furthering an understanding of PWDs thus introducing a more inclusive generation by:
 - a. Creating an inclusive culture within the school by offering conferences and activities, between abled-bodied students and students with disabilities, reducing discrimination against PWDs;
 - b. Inviting able-bodied students to participate in mentorship programs that allows for the movement towards social and educational integration to occur;
 - c. Increasing equal leadership opportunities in school positions for children with disabilities and ensuring equal recognition of capabilities of students with disabilities;
 6. *Encourages* national governments to integrate fully inclusive classroom technology with the implementation of shared devices such as but not limited to:
 - a. Providing tools and supportive resources financed by the Member States themselves in form of a minimal increase of an educational tax;
 - b. Including adjustable tables or chairs in order to meet the need for each and every student with disabilities;
 7. *Recommends* Member States to move from segregated schools for students with disabilities to schools that will include all students, which will:
 - a. Allow for easier transition from school to the workplace and everyday life for PWDs;
 - b. Increases access to education for students with disabilities, who will no longer be limited to special schools designed for students with disabilities, and provide them with more options in schools they will be able to attend;

- 163 c. Increase the exposure of able-bodied students to PWDs, thus reducing the lack of awareness about the
164 challenges faced by disabled persons, and reducing the stigma faced by this vulnerable population;
165
- 166 8. *Recommends* the development of national and regional job banks specifically for the use of PWDs, which will
167 include employment opportunities that are friendly to or tailored for persons with disabilities, hoping that:
168
- 169 a. Improving work opportunities increases chances of employment for PWDs by collecting these
170 opportunities in one spot, and make it easier for these persons to become involved in their communities
171 through their employment;
172
- 173 b. Centralizing these work opportunities improves the chances of PWDs to become better integrated in
174 their societies at large;
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- 176 9. *Calls* for policies from the Member States bringing forth incentives for education professionals to provide
177 appropriate education for PWDs within rural communities, including:
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- 179 a. Offering higher salaries for qualified educators working with PWDs to establish rural attraction and an
180 equal education for PWDs;
181
- 182 b. Creating optional living accommodations for educators to live in which provide easy transitioning into
183 permanent lifestyles;
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- 185 10. *Supports* Member States to expand their public transportation methods into rural areas by ensuring proper
186 construction and maintenance of roadways as well as consistent transit availability such as regularly timed
187 public bus stops, ensuring that these transit methods are accessible to PWDs while also remaining financially
188 attainable to them;
189
- 190 11. *Endorses* the members and experts of existing funding organizations to monitor the implementation of short
191 term measures, which are stated in operative clause 4 of this resolution, and decide the prioritizing of financing
192 long term measures like above mentioned in operative clauses 1-3, 5, 7-10 and 12 to ensure an effective and fair
193 distribution of the resources and prohibit the abuse of such resources;
194
- 195 12. *Endorses* ongoing training on issues faced by PWDs to be made available to all educators and caretakers of
196 these persons, by:
197
- 198 a. Providing training for dealing with mental health repercussions of social stigmas surrounding PWDs;
199
- 200 b. Offering methods improving the social integration of PWDs into the general population, including
201 familiarity with physical accessibility issues in everyday activities.



Code: CSocD/1/6

Committee: The Commission for Social Development

Topic: Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development

1 *The Commission for Social Development,*
2

3 *Highlighting* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as being essential to improving the social equality between
4 people, including those with disabilities, specifically SDG 10, which aims for a reduction in and ultimately, an
5 elimination of inequalities for all persons,
6

7 *Concerned* by the findings of Handicap International's report, which concluded that there is a rise in mistreatment of
8 persons with disabilities (PWDs), including: abandonment at birth, physical abuse, and infanticide,
9

10 *Noting* with satisfaction the "no persons left behind" approach of Habitat III's *New Urban Agenda*, which notes the
11 importance of acknowledging how differences in things like physical ability will impact life and responses from the
12 community,
13

14 *Recognizing* the results from The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund projects, which conclude
15 that poverty, malnutrition, poor health, illiteracy and lack of access to proper sanitary conditions or clean water
16 exacerbates the consequences of children's disabilities in least developed countries (LDCs),
17

18 *Aware* that Person with Disabilities (PWDs) are a vulnerable population, due to the fact that PWDs are economically
19 disadvantaged, as outlined in the *General Assembly (GA)* resolution 61/106 of 2006, entitled *Convention of Rights*
20 *for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)*,
21

22 *Recognizing* that, according to the Human Rights Watch, women make up 75% of PWDs in lower to middle income
23 countries and 70% of these women reside in rural areas and 10% of all women worldwide have some form of
24 disability,
25

26 *Recognizing* the adverse effects of prejudice originating from religious and cultural backgrounds brought forth by
27 the Human Rights Watch in which PWDs are neglected, harassed and tortured within their societies,
28

29 *Reaffirming* the importance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities held annually on December 3rd,
30 with the hope that all Member States will be inspired to help ensure that this day is observed internationally in order
31 to raise greater awareness, especially in lesser developed states,
32

33 *Recognizing* the pertinence of the tools suggested by the Toolkit on Disability for Africa, as developed by the United
34 Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), addressing the specific issues of persons with
35 disabilities in LDCs within the African continent, which provide greater access to participation in public life, justice
36 and decent work,
37

38 *Recalling* the target goal of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to commit 0.7%
39 of their GNP to Official Developmental Assistance (ODA) to developing nations,
40

41 1. *Draws attention to* the need for inclusive policymaking and development planning in LDCs, requesting that:
42

- 43 a. Aid providers in LDCs consider the unique needs of PWDs in such nations, such as an exacerbated
44 need for physical and mental health services, and to provide resources with these needs in mind;
- 45 b. The international community examines development and urbanization plans to ensure persons with
46 disabilities are not excluded from considerations made (such as infrastructure and transit
47 development), and to take a "no persons left behind" approach, as outlined in Habitat III's *New Urban*
48 *Agenda*, whilst drafting new social and infrastructural development policies;
49
50

- 51 c. An intersectional approach is taken to developmental policies, to ensure urbanization and development
52 efforts keep the needs of PWDs in mind, and suggests that the SDGs set forth by the *2030 Agenda for*
53 *Sustainable Development* act as the foundation for these policies;
54
- 55 2. *Encourages* developed Member States contributing to development efforts in LDCs to consider the benefits of
56 proactively ensuring new investments proposed are inclusive for PWDs, as opposed to retrofitting policies or
57 infrastructure inadequate for such considerations, focusing on the future of the rights of PWDs;
58
- 59 3. *Emphasizes* the importance of medical care for persons with disabilities in LDCs and invites organizations with
60 expert background knowledge on PWDs to share their knowledge of the specific needs of PWDs, with
61 consideration on the differing levels of health care provided within LDCs:
62
- 63 a. Suggests the presence of international organizations and attention to be placed on rural parts of a
64 Member State, such as Handicapped International, Inclusion International, Center for International
65 Rehabilitation, and African Rehabilitation Institute;
66
- 67 b. Invites Member States to integrate the knowledge shared by such organizations into their health care
68 policymaking processes, as proper medical care is essential to the ability of PWDs to be involved in
69 their society through work and social activities;
70
- 71 4. *Recommends* that the international community establishes an adequate legal framework which would address
72 the problems of women with disabilities who face the risk of additional discrimination and marginalization
73 based on their gender as well as calling for better control and oversight mechanisms to ensure implementation
74 of these goals:
75
- 76 a. Notes that girls and women of all ages with any form of disability are amongst the most vulnerable and
77 marginalized persons in society; therefore, this must be taken into account to address their rights in all
78 policy-making and programming;
79
- 80 b. Focusing on the implementation of the strategies and measures for the development of gender specific
81 disability policies specifically catered to African women living with disabilities, a majority of whom
82 live in rural, underdeveloped communities by supporting reform efforts, development strategies and
83 programs decided by the African countries and the least developed countries:
84
- 85 5. *Recommends* to the international community to set up grass root projects, focusing on breaking the cultural
86 barriers within the LDCs against PWDs, to enable cultural changes:
87
- 88 a. Recognizes that the international community will help to reintegrate PWDs back into society, on
89 account of the strong relations that exist between international associations and the communities within
90 LDCs, as reflected in African societies;
91
- 92 b. Further invites the international community to work with PWDs to ensure that the message that every
93 person is able is widespread and accepted, in order to confront entrenched beliefs that center around
94 the idea that PWDs are different;
95
- 96 c. Encourages the international community to advise the United Nations Partnership to Promote the
97 Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in the hopes that it will set up projects aimed at preventing the
98 demonization and marginalization of PWDs;
99
- 100 6. *Recommends* the international community to take into consideration the Toolkit on Disability for Africa's
101 modules, created by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with emphasis on the
102 following modules: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Disability, Culture, Beliefs, and
103 Disability, and the rights of PWDs to work;
104
- 105 7. *Encouraging* developed Member States who are already contributing Official ODA to LDCs to stay committed
106 in their contributions in order to create inclusive environments for PWDs.