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Agenda item 71 (a)

### Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[on the report of the Third Committee ([A/78/481/Add.1](#), para. 9)]

### 78/195. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [76/154](#) of 16 December 2021 and its previous relevant resolutions, and relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

*Recalling also* the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms without discrimination,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>2</sup> and the Optional Protocol thereto,<sup>3</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>4</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>5</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>6</sup> and all other relevant international human rights instruments,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.



*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>7</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>8</sup> and the New Urban Agenda,<sup>9</sup>

*Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup> which is inclusive of persons with disabilities and in which Member States pledged to leave no one behind, recognizing that the contributions of persons with disabilities are important to its full and effective implementation, and acknowledging that Member States, while implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect, promote and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind,

*Recognizing* that international cooperation is key for disability-inclusive development, which is needed to ensure that sufficient means of implementation exist to provide countries with the opportunity to realize the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Welcoming* the fact that, since the opening for signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto on 30 March 2007, 164 States and 1 regional integration organization have signed and 188 States and 1 regional integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention and 94 States have signed and 105 States have ratified the Optional Protocol,

*Noting with appreciation* the work and activities that have been and continue to be undertaken in support of the Convention and towards the fulfilment and mainstreaming of the rights of all persons with disabilities, particularly through, inter alia, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, the Under-Secretary-General and Senior Adviser on Policy, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, other human rights treaty bodies, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

*Recalling* that persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, psychosocial or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others, including in relation to their access 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, in both urban and rural areas,

*Recalling in particular* that article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides that States parties to the Convention shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards,

*Noting* the importance of article 18 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in which States parties are called upon to recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others,

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<sup>7</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

*Emphasizing* the need to ensure that persons with disabilities are protected in situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, and have equal access to humanitarian assistance,

*Recognizing* that persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters and in their aftermath, and that they may require specific protection and safety measures, recognizing further the need to support further participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development of measures and decision-making processes relating thereto, in order to ensure disability-inclusive risk reduction and humanitarian action, and recognizing the special coping mechanisms developed by persons with disabilities to withstand the effects of conflict and natural disasters,

*Recognizing also* the critical contributions of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction, peacebuilding and addressing the root causes of conflict, and in this regard stressing the importance of sustained consultation and dialogue between persons with disabilities, including their representative organizations, and humanitarian organizations and national and international decision makers,

*Recognizing further* the particular barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing justice, including access to effective remedies and, as appropriate, reparation, in relation to violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

*Noting* the need for Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further strengthen the normative framework on disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the pledge of leaving no one behind contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to consider disability as a global issue, cutting across the pillars of the United Nations,

*Welcoming* progress towards mainstreaming disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in the work of the United Nations, and the implementation by the United Nations system of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, and welcoming also the leadership of the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to bring about transformative and systematic change on disability inclusion across the United Nations system,

*Welcoming also* the contributions of the Steering Committee on Accessibility to improving the accessibility of United Nations premises, conferences and meetings, and information and communications, and notes other disability-related initiatives such as the Global Disability Summit,

*Taking note* of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, of 2019, and the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

*Welcoming* the observance of international disability-related days, in particular the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, World Autism Awareness Day and World Down Syndrome Day, while emphasizing that the protection and promotion of the rights of all persons with all types of disabilities remains an important aspect of the work of the United Nations,

*Recalling* that the 2018 *Disability and Development Report: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities*<sup>11</sup> presents

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<sup>11</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. 19.IV.4.

an overview of the status of accessibility for persons with disabilities, including the participation of persons with disabilities, in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the persistent gaps in this regard, identifies good practices and includes recommendations on scaling up actions to ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the programmes, policies and efforts of States for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the disability-inclusive achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that the illness, death, socioeconomic disruption and devastation caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including to health as well as care and support systems, have had a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities and brought urgency to strengthening international cooperation to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics and other health emergencies, taking into account lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies,

*Expressing concern* that women and girls with disabilities in diverse situations and conditions are subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which limit their enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, and recognizing that the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets which contribute, inter alia, to the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities and facilitate the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

*Recognizing* that persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, and in their aftermath, and that they are often at increased risk of discrimination, exploitation and all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, offline and online, abandonment, and lack of access to basic and essential services, and emphasizing the need to consider their particular needs in humanitarian response,

*Recognizing also* that the rights and needs of persons with disabilities are often overlooked in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, including in the early phases, and the importance of providing timely and appropriate protection, reintegration and rehabilitation assistance and access to assistive technologies, recognizing the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies, to persons with disabilities, while ensuring that the diversity of persons with disabilities is taken into account and that all their specific rights and needs are addressed, in particular those of women and children with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, such as access to health-care services, care and support programmes, psychosocial support and educational programmes and livelihoods, in order to further promote their role as agents of change,

*Recognizing further* that Indigenous persons with disabilities, including Indigenous women and children, are disproportionately affected by the direct consequences of climate change owing to their close relationship with and protection of the environment and its resources, and specific measures are required to ensure that their rights are protected, respected and fulfilled in this context,

*Recognizing* the importance of accessibility for persons with disabilities in all aspects of life, including in the civil, political, social, economic and cultural spheres, to health and education and to information and communications, and the need to identify and eliminate prejudice, discrimination, obstacles and barriers that limit the

access of persons with disabilities 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 available to the public, in both urban and rural areas, on an equal basis with others,

*Recognizing also* the importance of strengthening protections and ensuring the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, and recognizing further the diversity of persons with disabilities, in crisis prevention, humanitarian response plans and post-conflict, emergency and disaster recovery and reconstruction planning, including on accessibility and reasonable accommodation, as well as care and support arrangements,

*Recognizing further* that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities through their representative organizations, as well as civil society organizations committed to disability mainstreaming, should be consulted closely and actively involved in decision-making processes and in the development and implementation of legislation and policies and programmes, especially those concerning them directly,

*Emphasizing* that accessibility is a precondition for persons with disabilities to live independently, participate fully and effectively in all aspects of life, including in political and public life and decision-making processes, and fully enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, and recognizing the importance of accessibility measures, including through the use of universal design and assistive technologies, as a means of investing in society as a whole and as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing* that information and communications technologies, including assistive technology and devices, have shown their potential to strengthen the exercise of human rights, and that they can create conditions enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy their human rights and can contribute to their social inclusion and empowerment and allow them to live independently in the community on an equal basis with others and to fully, effectively and meaningfully participate in society and in the workplace,

*Recognizing also* the intersection between older age and disability and the specific challenges linked to accessibility for older persons with disabilities, especially those faced by older women with disabilities,

*Recognizing further* the need to promote and protect the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including those who require more intensive support to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational abilities and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life,

*Recognizing* that persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters and in their aftermath, and that they may require specific protection and safety measures, recognizing further the need to support further participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development of measures and decision-making processes relating thereto, in order to ensure disability-inclusive risk reduction and humanitarian action, and recognizing the special coping mechanisms developed by persons with disabilities to withstand the effects of conflict and natural disasters,

*Recognizing also* the contribution of family members towards the full and equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights, including to participate in decision-making processes, inter alia, through participation in organizations which empower persons with disabilities to have a voice and full control of their own lives, and recognizing the need for States to raise awareness throughout society, including

at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities and to foster respect for their rights and dignity, including participation,

*Recognizing further* the need for States to accelerate the development, implementation and mainstreaming of strategies that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all persons with disabilities, including women and girls, to the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights, without discrimination, by adopting legislation, policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, including those who are in vulnerable situations, and affirming that realizing their human rights requires their full and effective participation and inclusion in all aspects of public, political, economic, cultural, social and family life, on an equal basis with all others,

*Emphasizing* the right to privacy and the respect for data-protection regulations and standards in all uses of information and communications technologies and systems,

*Welcoming* the positive role of civil society in the promotion and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, and stressing the importance of closely consulting and actively involving persons with disabilities, including women and children, through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of legislation and policies that affect their lives and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, thereby minimizing the risk of creating barriers to accessibility for all persons with disabilities,

*Stressing* the need for capacity-development efforts aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure equal access to quality education, full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development, volunteering opportunities and vocational and entrepreneurial training in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence,

*Acknowledging* the importance of taking measures to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in order to eliminate discrimination, stereotypes, prejudices and other barriers which constitute a major impediment to their full, equal and effective participation in society and the economy, as well as in political and public life,

*Concerned* that the continuing lack of available, high-quality, timely and reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, policies and programmes, and in this regard recognizing the need to intensify efforts to build the capacity of Member States, and to strengthen, at the national level, data collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated by disability, sex and age for specific indicators, using appropriate measurement tools, including, as appropriate, the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and other data-collection methodologies, to support the development of evidence-based policies and programmes that are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, including women and girls, on an equal basis with others,

*Stressing* the relevance of disaggregated data collection and analysis, including by disability, age, sex and other characteristics relevant to national contexts, as an important element in the design of inclusive policies, including those relating to the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including

situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards,

1. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto as a matter of priority;

2. *Encourages* States that have ratified the Convention and submitted one or more reservations to it to review regularly the effect and continued relevance of such reservations and to consider the possibility of withdrawing them;

3. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to strengthen efforts undertaken to disseminate accessible and easy-to-understand information on the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, including to children and young people to promote their understanding, and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under those instruments;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and easy-to-understand communication as an accessibility resource and tool for persons with disabilities”,<sup>12</sup> and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities;<sup>13</sup>

5. *Urges* States to commit to build back stronger by learning lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, including by enhancing the resilience of programmes for persons with disabilities during health emergencies, implementing resilient and inclusive recovery plans in consultation with persons with disabilities to reach targets and harnessing innovations such as digital technologies, and recognizing the importance of care and support systems for inclusion;

6. *Encourages* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in processes of monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian assistance, and ensure that they have adequate access to feedback mechanisms during situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, and increase public resources for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction;

7. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant sustainable development strategies, and encourages States to apply a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach and to intensify their efforts to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consistent with their international obligations;

9. *Also emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities in humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the importance of non-discrimination and their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in and contribution to design, planning, implementation and review of humanitarian responses, as well as disaster risk reduction, preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as

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<sup>12</sup> [A/78/331](#).

<sup>13</sup> [A/78/174](#).

the implementation of systematic approaches, policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

10. *Encourages* States to review and repeal any law or policy that restricts the full and effective participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others or discriminates against persons with disabilities, including with regard to accessing a service or facility open to the public, and to establish accessible and effective channels of redress for discrimination on the basis of disability;

11. *Urges* States to take steps to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against all women and girls with disabilities through repealing discriminatory laws, policies and practices, to take all effective measures to remove any other barriers faced by women and girls with disabilities in accessing, inter alia, the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, transportation, health and education, information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public and to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all rights stipulated in the Convention, including to effectively and fully participate in public life and in the conduct of public affairs;

12. *Also urges* States to ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with adequate support in order to participate fully in the labour market and ensure that employment opportunities and the ability to improve the quality of their employment are not lost as a result of situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, through encouraging the use of innovations such as flexible working, teleworking, robotics and artificial intelligence, and other technological advancements, and cooperation between employment, health and welfare policy;

13. *Further urges* States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities, including women and girls, in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, and ensure that their specific needs are addressed, such as access to basic services, including health-care services, rehabilitation assistance, psychosocial support and educational programmes, as well as transportation and information and communications technologies and systems on an equal basis with others;

14. *Calls upon* all States to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, on an equal basis with other children, in recognition that discrimination against any child on the basis of a disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, to enhance inclusion and address barriers faced by children with disabilities, including addressing discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community, to develop gender- and age-sensitive policies and capacities to ensure the rights and address the particular needs of children with disabilities, including children in vulnerable situations, including migrant children, children without parental care, children in street situations and child victims of trafficking, and those affected by climate change, and to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, including cases of sexual and gender-based violence;

15. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access on an equal basis with others to basic and essential services provided in the context of situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including education, livelihoods, health-care services, care and support programmes, transportation and information and communications technologies and systems;



16. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully include persons with disabilities in all stages of addressing situations of risk, including armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, especially in areas where they experience additional barriers due to their disability, and recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health without discrimination, including through providing timely and appropriate, quality and free or affordable health-care services and programmes as provided to other persons in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes, and provide health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities;

17. *Encourages* Member States and relevant stakeholders to work with national emergency committees and mental health support providers in order to include mental health and psychosocial support needs in emergency preparedness and response plans and enable access to age- and gender-responsive and disability-inclusive, safe and supportive services that address psychological trauma (individual and collective), including that caused by situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, for all, including health workers and humanitarian personnel, during and following emergencies, with due attention to the longer-term funding required to build or rebuild community-based, resilient mental health systems after the emergency;

18. *Encourages* States to adopt inclusive strategies that address the barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all levels of decision-making processes, and to adopt a framework for equality, non-discrimination and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities;

19. *Calls upon* States to ensure the full and effective participation of and consultation with persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of policies and programmes for the implementation of the Convention, as well as in other relevant issues at the national and local levels, including through the inclusion of persons with disabilities in boards, organs and institutions and integrating consultative processes in such policies and programmes as appropriate;

20. *Also calls upon* States to promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information, to provide information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities using accessible formats and technologies useful for persons with different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost, and to expand the availability and improve the affordability of information and communications technologies, as well as to facilitate cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

21. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to close the digital divides and promote the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities, addressing the challenges associated with accessibility, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills, and awareness;

22. *Calls upon* States to ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement and that persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;

23. *Also calls upon* States to promote and facilitate access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, especially new and emerging ones, including information and communications systems, mobility aids, assistive devices and other assistive technologies, by persons with disabilities, and to promote research and development in this regard, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimal cost and at an early stage;

24. *Urges* States to consider laws, policies and procedures relating to public procurement to ensure that persons with disabilities can access any service or facility open to the public on an equal basis with others;

25. *Encourages* States to disseminate information to and work with the private sector, including employers and other relevant stakeholders, to implement accessibility measures for any facilities or services that are open or provided to the public that take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;

26. *Urges* States to enable the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including their representative organizations, in humanitarian assistance action, as well as in conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction and peacebuilding, and to ensure that a disability-inclusive approach is prioritized;

27. *Encourages* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including their representative organizations, in processes of monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian assistance, and ensure that they have adequate access to feedback mechanisms during situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, and increase public resources for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction;

28. *Encourages* States to ensure access to information, services and assistance for all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, including by producing early and accessible warning systems and providing information and communications about situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including by using local languages and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities, such as easy-to-understand communications, in a timely manner, and promoting access to basic and essential services, including health-care services, and by strengthening the preparedness of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards;

29. *Calls upon* States to strengthen efforts to empower all persons with disabilities and enhance their participation and promote their leadership in society through taking measures to address and remove all barriers that prevent or restrict their access and full inclusion and participation in the community on an equal basis with others, including in the government and public sector, the private sector, civil society and all branches and bodies of the national monitoring system of the Convention, and to work to ensure that persons with disabilities are closely consulted and actively involved, through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of all legislation, policies and programmes which have an impact on their lives;

30. *Encourages* States to provide support to existing organizations and promote the creation of organizations, including civil society organizations and networks of persons with disabilities, as appropriate, and to promote and support persons with disabilities in taking leadership roles in public decision-making bodies

at all levels, recognizing the importance for States of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society in the implementation of measures on persons with disabilities;

31. *Calls upon* States to collect and analyse data disaggregated by income, sex, race, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant to national contexts to assist, inter alia, with the identification and eradication of barriers and all forms of discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, that prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying all the rights stipulated in the Convention, to guide inclusive policy planning and to be used on an ongoing basis to assess and advance participation, and also calls upon States to improve data-collection systems for adequate monitoring and evaluation frameworks on the implementation of the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals for all persons with disabilities;

32. *Urges* States and other relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles,<sup>14</sup> where they exist, to continue to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by, inter alia, supporting the disaggregation of data by disability, sex and age for specific indicators, using appropriate measurement tools, including, as appropriate, the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and other data-collection methodologies, to assist States in measuring the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets and programming policies in the context of the Goals;

33. *Encourages* States to engage in international cooperation efforts, where required, aimed at enhancing their national capacities to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, and invites relevant United Nations entities, in accordance with their respective mandates, to consider ways to foster international cooperation activities in this regard;

34. *Encourages* States, United Nations entities and relevant international organizations, inter alia:

(a) To ensure that international cooperation is gender-responsive and disability-inclusive, including through the implementation of disability markers to monitor the implementation of programmes and the collection of data and statistics on persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, as well as other international frameworks;

(b) To support, promote and strengthen international cooperation and assistance, and enhance partnerships and coordination, including South-South cooperation, among themselves and with the active participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, as well as other relevant civil society organizations and stakeholders, in strengthening the means of implementation of the Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the mobilization of financial resources, technical cooperation and facilitation of access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies on mutually agreed terms;

(c) To take effective and appropriate steps to facilitate the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed

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<sup>14</sup> Resolution 48/134, annex.

conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, having regard for the measures contemplated by the Convention, and to include persons with disabilities in their planning, response and recovery actions, to identify and eliminate obstacles and barriers to ensuring their safety;

(d) To build capacity and sensitivity for disability inclusion among personnel involved in disaster and emergency response and humanitarian assistance, including emergency first responders, by raising awareness of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, holding consultations with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, and including provisions for disability inclusion in government protocols and procedures;

(e) To ensure accessibility, including through universal design in programming, and in all post-emergency reconstruction and rebuilding, particularly during planning and reconstruction of infrastructure and public facilities, including housing, transportation and communication;

(f) To enhance the collection, dissemination and use of data on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, disaggregated by disability, age, sex and other characteristics relevant to national contexts, using data collection methodologies such as the Washington Group short set of questions on disability, as appropriate, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

35. *Encourages* States to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities into national policies and action plans for the implementation of relevant international instruments addressing situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards;

36. *Encourages* the United Nations system, international financial and development institutions, and other international and regional organizations:

(a) To increase assistance to support Member States, upon their request, in substantially enhancing the participation of persons with disabilities, including through their organizations, in decision-making, including through building capacity, training and supporting persons with disabilities in participating in public life, and sharing experiences and best practices;

(b) To provide sustained, long-term support to national partners, including organizations of persons with disabilities, and civil society organizations, in their efforts to become more disability-inclusive and promote the participation of persons with disabilities;

(c) To ensure non-discrimination for all persons with disabilities, and ensure opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in humanitarian preparedness and response;

37. *Recalls* its decision on accessible seating for representatives with disabilities in resolution [73/341](#) of 12 September 2019 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, and in this regard also recalls the note by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat implementing the decision;

38. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly annually, under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”, as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

39. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the system-wide implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy,<sup>15</sup> and calls upon the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue to work collaboratively to accelerate the full and effective mainstreaming of disability inclusion into the United Nations system, including by implementing and reporting on the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy across its programmes and operations;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a progress report on steps taken by the United Nations system towards mainstreaming disability inclusion, including implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, within existing resources;

41. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to take part in implementing the recommendations endorsed by the Steering Committee on Accessibility in June 2019;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on how diverse contexts amplify the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, particularly those subjected to discrimination or whose rights, as outlined by the Convention, are not upheld, including good practices and challenges in the implementation of the Convention in that regard, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, relevant United Nations entities, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Children's Fund, taking into account the views of relevant stakeholders and using existing available materials, and to include a segment on the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

43. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to maintain the levels of resources required by the relevant offices in the United Nations system for the fulfilment of their tasks with respect to their work on the rights of and inclusive development for persons with disabilities.

*50th plenary meeting  
19 December 2023*

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<sup>15</sup> [A/77/344](#) and [A/78/281](#).