

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

Member Organizations:

Disabled Peoples' International, Down Syndrome International,
Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People,
World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf,
World Federation of the DeafBlind,
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry,
Arab Organization of Disabled People, European Disability Forum,
Red Latinoamericana de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Personas con
Discapacidad y sus familias (RIADIS), Pacific Disability Forum

Suggestions for disability-relevant recommendations to be included in the Concluding Observations of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women 48th Session (17 January -4 February 2011)

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) has prepared the following suggestions for the Concluding Observations, based on references to persons with disabilities to be found in the state report and list of issues.

ISRAEL

Israel has signed but not ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Select references to persons with disabilities in the State reports and list of issues:

[Fourth State Report](#)

Women with Disabilities

General and Legal Framework

69. According to estimates by the **Commission for Equal Rights for People with Disabilities** within the Ministry of Justice, people with disabilities make up about 10% of the Israeli population; about half of them are women. According to the Commission, **women with disabilities** suffer from “twofold” discrimination.

70. On March 22, 2005 the Knesset approved Amendment no. 2 to **the Law on Equal Rights for People with Disabilities** 5758-1998, (*“Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Law”*). The amendment to the law obligates the state to make new buildings and infrastructures accessible. The law also requires that the service granted to the public, be made accessible to **people with disabilities**. Public buildings, areas of commerce, public institutions, schools, clinics, institutes of higher education, employment centers must all be made accessible to **people with disabilities**. The provisions of the law set up a period of 6 years for the implementation of the law in the privately-owned public areas and a period of 12 years for its implementation in public authorities.

71. Since our previous report was submitted, several other regulations that further advance the right to equality and human dignity for **people with disabilities** were promulgated.

72. Among these regulations are: *Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Regulations (Priority Parking Spaces at the Work Place)*, 5762-2001 (*“Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Regulations (Priority Parking Spaces at the Work Place)”*); *Minimum Wages Regulations (Wages Adapted to Employee with Disability with a Diminished Working Ability)*, 5762-2002 (*“Minimum Wages Regulations (Wages Adapted to Employee with Disability with a Diminished Working Ability)”*); *Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Regulations (Regularization of Accessibility to Public Transportation Services)*, 5763-2003

("Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Regulations (Regularization of Accessibility to Public Transportation Services)").

General Economic and Personal Situation

73. Information regarding **people with disabilities** originates from details on various disability benefits given to the six main categories of **disabled people**. These categories determine the source and type of support provided and they are based on: general social security **disability** pension, employment **disability** pension, IDF (Israel Defence Force) **disability** pension, hostile operations **disability** pensions, Holocaust and anti-Nazi operations **disability** pensions, and children receiving **disabled child** pensions. Men are the major recipients of **disability** pensions in most categories, except for a slightly higher number of women among those receiving hostile operations and Holocaust and anti-Nazi operations **disability** pensions. The men's rate is particularly higher among the IDF **disability** pension recipients and the employment **disability** pension recipients. Women make up 5% and less than 9.8% of these last two groups respectively.

74. Women make up less than half (42%) of the general social security **disability** pension recipients, mostly due to the higher standard of **disability** required for women homemakers. Homemakers are still required to prove 50% medical **disability** (as opposed to the usual 40%) in order to be eligible for a pension. Their ability to function in the house is examined to assess their eligibility and they are not entitled to a dependent supplement for their unemployed partner, but only for their children.

Special Health Concerns of Women with Disabilities

75. A nation wide accessibility survey found that most health clinics are not fully accessible to **people with disabilities** (95.4%). Also, in a sample survey of gynecological clinics, not one of the 24 clinics sampled addressed all basic requirements of **women with disabilities**, and only 6 clinics corresponded with most of these requirements.

Employment

76. The majority of **people with severe disabilities** are unemployed and most of them have never held steady jobs. Over 70% of the people with **severe disabilities, physical illnesses and mental deficiencies**, as well as approximately 72% of the **blind** and 20% of the **deaf** are unemployed. Of those employed, there is a higher number of men than women (20% to 12%) and 42% of the men work full time, whilst that figure is only 33% for women.

Shelters for Battered Women

130. The first phase is aimed at women in the preliminary phase of moving out of their homes to shelters, these are "reception apartments", located in 5 municipalities: Afula, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Be'er Sheva and Dimona. These apartments are designated for women of all sectors, and are also adapted for **women with disabilities**. The duration of stay in these apartments is limited to six weeks and in the year 2004 - 63 women and about 100 children were housed in these apartments (a 43% increase compared to 2003).

131. In the second phase, 14 shelters are available for battered women and their children. These shelters housed 692 women and 1,064 children in 2004. There are currently two shelters serving the Arab sector and one for Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox women. One of the Arab shelters and another shelter can house **women with disabilities**. Another shelter is undergoing the required arrangements to accommodate **women with disabilities**. The shelters are located all over Israel; all receive women on a 24 hours basis.

Mental Health

339. As of the end of 2002, there were 47,660 patients in mental health clinics, 25,380 men (53.3%) and 22,280 (46.7%) women. The number of women is higher in the 45-64 and 65+ age groups.

340. In 2002, 13,295 people were admitted to inpatient care and day hospitalization, 5,565 (42.1%) of them were women. This data reflects an increase compared to 2001, when 13,014 persons were admitted to inpatient care and day hospitalization, 5,490 (42.1%) of them were women.

341. The EUROHIS data indicates that women suffer from higher levels of depression and anxiety than men. In the 45-74 age group, 4.7% of the women reported that they were diagnosed as depressed/anxious, to only 3.8% of the men. In the younger age group of 21-44, the numbers are almost identical, with 1.7% of the women and 1.5% of the men.

[Fifth State Report](#)

General and Legal Framework

65. In 2007, Israel signed the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and began the process of ratifying the convention.

67. In 2005, the *Investigation and Testimony Procedures Law (Suitability to Persons with Mental or Physical Disability)* 5766-2005 (the "*Investigation and Testimony Procedures Law (Suitability to Persons with Mental or Physical Disability)*"), was enacted. This is an unprecedented law that regulates methods adjusted to **investigate people with mental or intellectual disabilities** and also adjusted methods for their testimonies. The Law applies to every **disabled suspect, victim and witness**, and to specific offences enumerated in the Law which are violence offences, sexual assaults and prostitution. The application of the Law to victims and witnesses will move forward gradually until the year 2010.

68. In December 2007, the *Prohibition of Slander Law* 5726-1965 (the "*Prohibition of Slander Law*") was amended by the Israeli Knesset. According to the revised law, making a mockery of, or humiliating, **persons with disabilities** because of their **disability** shall be considered unlawful and prohibited slander, regardless of whether the disability is psychological, mental (including cognitive) or physical, and whether it is permanent or temporary.

69. Since the submission of Israel's previous report, several regulations that further advance the right to equality and human dignity for **people with disabilities** were amended and promulgated. Among these regulations are:

70. *Regulation on Equal Rights for People with Disabilities (State Participation in Financing Adjustments)* 5766-2006. According to the regulation, employers are entitled to a refund from the Government on expenses made in order to adjust the workplace to the **disability**, work and daily needs of **disabled employees**, subject to a maximal sum per employee. *The Equal Rights for People with Disability (Licensed Building, Infrastructure and Environment Accessibility Experts) Regulations*, 5767-2007 and the *Equal Rights for People with Disabilities (Licensed Service Accessibility Experts) Regulations*, 5767-2007, promulgate the prerequisites for the registration of licensed building, infrastructure and environment accessibility experts and licensed service accessibility experts respectively.

71. In 2005, the Ministry of ITL established the Department for Integration of Persons with Disabilities in the Work Force. The Department is charged with promoting the integration of **persons with disabilities in the open labor market as opposed to sheltered employment**, through, *inter alia*, the implementation of the *Equal Rights for People with Disabilities (State Participation in Financing Adjustments) Regulations* and the *Minimum Wage (Adjusted Wage for Employees with Disabilities Having Reduced Ability to Work) Regulations*.

General Economic and Personal Situation

72. Information regarding **people with disabilities** originates from details on various **disability** benefits given to the six main categories of **disabled people**. These categories determine the source and type of support provided and they are based on: general **disability** pension, employment **disability** pension, IDF (Israel Defense Force) **disability** pension, hostile operations disability pensions, Holocaust and anti-Nazi operations disability pensions, and children receiving **disabled child** pensions. Men are the major recipients of **disability** pensions in most categories, except for a slightly higher number of women among those receiving hostile operations and Holocaust and anti-Nazi operations **disability pensions**. The men's rate of pensions received is particularly higher among the IDF **disability pension** recipients and the employment **disability pension** recipients. It is worth mentioning two additional pensions for **persons with disabilities**: the Nursing Pension and the Mobility Pension. The Nursing Pension is given mainly to elderly people. In 2008, 38,800 men and 94,100 women received the Nursing Pension. Mobility Pension is given **to persons with mobility disabilities**. The total number of disabled persons receiving this pension in 2008, and not receiving the general **disability** pension, was 17,000.

73. According to the data of the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities, based on a social survey that was conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics in 2007, the majority of all persons with disabilities in Israel are women, particularly among **persons with severe disabilities**. In 2007, 238,000 women reported having **severe disabilities** (55% of all **persons with severe disabilities**) and 387,000 women reported having **moderate disabilities** (55%). Women make up the majority of **persons with disabilities** in all age groups, as detailed by the following table: (see page 25 of the report).

74. For further details and updated figures regarding recipients of general **disability** pension, please see discussion below under Article 13 (General Disability Pension).

Special Health Concerns of Women with Disabilities

75. Amendment No. 2 to the *Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Law, 5758-1998* (the "*Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Law*") added a chapter regarding accessibility of health services which makes comprehensive provisions regarding accessibility to health and medical services for **persons with disabilities**, both in relation to the infrastructure and health services. The Ministry of Health together with the Israel Center for Technology and Accessibility have begun to map out, and to promote the accessibility of, women's health clinics. Currently there are 10 accessible women health clinics: most of them are adapted for **women with physical disabilities**. Unique in nature is the 'Maayaney Ha'yeshua' Hospital in which the personnel is trained to give health services **for persons with mental, emotional and cognitive disabilities**.

Accessibility

76. Several regulations were enacted in accordance with the *Equal Rights for People with Disability Law* since Israel's previous report:

77. As mentioned above, the *Equal Rights for People with Disability (Licensed Building, Infrastructure and Environment Accessibility Experts) Regulations, 5767-2007* and the ***Equal Rights for People with Disabilities (Licensed Service Accessibility Experts) Regulations, 5767- 2007***. These regulations promulgate the prerequisites for the registration of licensed building, infrastructure and environment accessibility experts and licensed service accessibility experts respectively.

78. The *Welfare (Treatment of Persons with Mental Disabilities) Law, 5729 1969*, provides that when determining the type of housing framework, priority should be given to community housing. The **Department for the Treatment of Persons with Intellectual Disability** within the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services acts to implement this

priority. Furthermore, there is a tendency to remove people from the residential facilities and place them in community housing in the form of hostels.

79. In September 2008, new regulations were promulgated, obligating the adjustment of various public sites to the needs of **persons with disabilities**. The *Equal Rights for People with Disabilities (Site Accessibility Adjustments) Regulations*, 5768-2008, determine **accessibility** requirements for archeological sites, national parks and nature reserves, as well as other areas, mainly forests, managed by the Jewish National Fund or on its behalf. According to the regulations, new sites will not open for public use unless the accessibility requirements are met. Existing sites are compelled to gradually fulfill the requirements within 10 years.

Accessibility to Media

80. On July 2005, the Knesset enacted the *Broadcasting Television Law (Subtitles and Signing)*, 5765-2005 (the "*Subtitles and Signing Law*"). The new Law institutes a comprehensive statutory scheme in this field, thereby replacing its predecessor, the far narrower *Deaf Persons Relief Law* of 1992. The new Law applies broader responsibilities and restrictions on broadcasters in order to enhance, to the fullest extent, **disabled persons'** accessibility to television broadcastings.

81. In 2008, the Council for Cable TV and Satellite Broadcasting, a public body established under the *Telecommunications Law*, 5742- 1982, decided on a separate definition of "prime time" for children's channels, so that the requirement for subtitles will coincide with the relevant viewing hours for **children with hearing impairments**. The council also decided on a list of children's programs of major interest that will be subtitled.

Employment

82. With respect to employment opportunities for **persons with disabilities**, a law enacted in 2007 is dedicated to the promotion of the integration of **persons with disabilities** into the workforce and to the improvement of their rehabilitation process. The *Rights of Persons with Disabilities Employed During Rehabilitation Law (Temporary Order)* defines a rehabilitating person, for the purposes of the Law, as a person whose employment capability, due to his or her **disability**, is at least 81% less than regular employment capability of a similar employee without **disabilities**. The Law stipulates that employer-employee relations cannot be established with regard to a rehabilitating employee, and grants the rehabilitating employee similar rights to those granted under Israel's labor laws.

84. **Employment of Persons with Disabilities by Gender.** Examination of the relative employment status of **men and women with disabilities** shows no significant difference between the two genders. The rate of employment of women between the ages of 20 and 64 stands at about 80% of the rate of men, for persons with and without **disabilities**.

85. The National Insurance Institute is in charge of payment of pensions to certain populations, as defined by law and regulations. The General Disability Pension is designed to act as minimum income to provide for the daily life of **persons with disabilities**.

86. In two precedents given in 2006, the Tel Aviv and the Haifa Labor District Courts ruled that **people with intellectual and/or mental disabilities** who work for private employers are not to be regarded as "volunteers," but as "workers" entitled to an employer-employee relationship and the applicability of all relevant labor laws. In both court rulings, the employers were obligated to retroactively compensate the **disabled employees** and provide them with their inherent rights as employees (*La.C. (Tel-Aviv) 10973/04 Goldstein v. Na'amat; La.C. (Haifa) 3327/01 Roth v. Ram Buildings Ltd*).

87. On July 10, 2005, the Nazareth District Labor Court ruled that the phrase “accommodation” as intended by Section 8 to the *Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Law* is not limited to the physical adjustment of structures, equipment or accessories, but extends to making accommodations of an economic nature. Thus, an employer is obligated to continue employing an employee who became **disabled**, and pay him or her the same salary, even if there is a decrease in his/her productivity due to the **disability**, unless the employer can prove that this imposes an unreasonable burden on his/her business. In this case, the Court held that an employee with cancer constitutes a person with a **disability** for the purposes of the *Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Law (La.C. (Nazareth) 1732/04 De Castro Dekel v. M.B.A Hazore’a (10.07.05))*.

88. As a result of these decisions, and with a view of encouraging the employment of **persons with intellectual and/or mental disabilities** in supported employment in the open labor market, a law was enacted in 2007 called the *Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities Employed as Rehabilitated Persons (Temporary Provision) Law 5767-2007* (the “*Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities Employed as Rehabilitated Persons (Temporary Provision) Law*”). According to this law, a person whose work capacity is less than 19% shall not be considered an employee, but rather a rehabilitated person. As such the entire body of labor laws does not apply, but at the same time the new law gives a rehabilitated person the right to remuneration for work and decent work conditions concerning matters such as leave, sick pay, hours of work and travel expenses. This law supplements the *Minimum Wage (Adjusted Wage for Employees with Disabilities Having Reduced Ability to Work) Regulations 5762-2002*, promulgated on February 21, 2002, concerning adjustments to the minimum wage for persons who are at various levels of diminished work capacity as the result of a **disability**. The objective of the Regulations is to encourage employers to hire employees whose work capacity is diminished due to **disability** by enabling them to pay such employees less than the minimum wage.

90. On July 27, 2008, the *National Insurance (Consolidated Version) Law 5755 1995*, (the “*National Insurance Law*”) was amended (Amendment No. 109) in order to further facilitate the integration of **persons with disabilities** into the labor force. The Amendment is the result of a process designed to sever the linkage between **disability**, social security and unemployment. Prior to the Amendment, a person with disability entitled to the National Insurance **Disability** Benefit had little if no incentive to take himself/herself off social security and enter the labor market, since a salary exceeding the level of **Disability** Benefit would disqualify him/her from receiving the benefit, even where he/she lost his/her job thereafter. Eliminating the Disability Benefit “trap” was a centerpiece of the Report issued by the **Public Commission for the Consideration of Disabled Persons’ Issues** and The Promotion of their Integration into the Community. The commission, appointed by the Government following a major strike of **persons with disabilities** in 2002, and headed by retired Justice Laron, presented its report on April 21, 2005. The recent Amendment to the *National Insurance Law*, which is the outcome of the Government’s adoption of the Laron Commission’s Report, enables a **person with disability** to earn a relatively high monthly salary (7,000 NIS – \$1,750) without having to forgo his/her National Insurance Disability Benefit entitlement.

Shelters for Battered Women

172. Protection from violence is provided by 13 shelters for battered women and their children, established in different locations throughout the country. Due to their distinct cultural and religious needs, two shelters have been specially designated for Arab women, and one for ultra- Orthodox Jewish women. One of the shelters is designated for both Jewish and Arab women and, two shelters are accessible to the **physically disabled**, one of those also serving the Arab population. In 2007, these shelters provided emergency intervention for nearly 1,700 women and children.

Legal Protection from Discrimination within the Workplace

388. In accordance with an Amendment to the *Equal Employment Opportunities Law*, dated January 3, 2006, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission was established, within the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor (ITL). The Commission is charged with the promotion, implementation and civil enforcement of the following laws and statutory provisions: *Equal Employment Opportunities Law*, 5748-1988; *Male and Female Workers (Equal Pay) Law* 5756- 1996 (the "*Male and Female Workers (Equal Pay) Law*"); *Women's Employment Law*; *Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law* (in relation to employment) and other statutory provisions relating to: discrimination on religious grounds and army reserve duty service, discrimination on the part of public and private employment agencies, affirmative action for women, **people with disabilities**, Israeli Arabs and persons of Ethiopian origin in the public sector and legislation protecting workers who "blow the whistle" on violations of the above laws and statutory provisions.

394. In late 2008, the advisory committee to the Commission has been appointed. Under the Amendment to the Law, the 21-member committee is comprised of representatives of the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women, the **Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, Government Ministries, NGOs, trade unions and employers' associations. Appropriate representation is given, insofar as is possible, to women, Israeli Arabs and **persons with disabilities**.

Pregnancy and Maternity Protection

415.7. Amendment No. 39, August 2007 - addresses several issues:

415.7.2. It also allows for a man whose spouse has given birth and can not care for the infant due to a **handicap** or illness to take a paternity leave for the full period in which she is unable to care for the infant for further elaboration on this issue please see section regarding parenthood below.

Parenthood

417. Amendment No. 39, dated August 2007 allows for a man whose spouse has given birth and cannot care for the infant due to a **handicap** or illness to take a paternity leave for the full period in which she is unable to care for the infant. Prior to the Amendment, in such case the father was not able to take the full period of leave. According to the Amendments, his paternity leave does not cancel the mother's right to her leave. A parallel Amendment was made to the *National Insurance Law* to allow the father on leave to collect a birth allowance in addition to the allowance paid to the mother.

Mental Health

504. As of the end of 2005, there were 50,891 people treated as outpatients in state owned mental health clinics, 27,576 were men and 23,315 were women. The number of women is higher in the 45-64 and 65+ age groups.

505. In 2005, 14,649 people were admitted to inpatient care and day hospitalization, 5,969 (40.7%) of them were women. This data reflects an increase compared to 2002, when 13,295 persons were admitted to inpatient care and day hospitalization, 5,490 (42.1%) of them were women. Hereinafter are additional data regarding mental health in Israel.

506. According to data of the Mental Health Communal Center in the city of Sderot, in 2007 alone, more than 652 new cases of stress and trauma victims due to the rockets launched by terrorists, were reported in Sderot and the western Negev (a 200% increase compared to 2006), and more than 4,860 persons received Psychiatric, psychological or mental treatment for symptoms of stress, anxiety and trauma following rockets explosions (a 400% increase compared to 2006)¹. A large percentage of those effected are women.

General Disability Pension

558. **Disability insurance** provides entitlement to a **Disability Pension**, meant to guarantee a minimum income for subsistence to persons with disabilities. The **Disability Pension** is paid to residents of Israel between the ages of 18 and retirement age who meet all the conditions of entitlement. There are two main groups of entitled persons, according to the entitlement test: **disabled persons** whose earning capacity has been lost or reduced as a result of their **impairment** (henceforth: “earners”) and **disabled housewives** whose capacity to function in their household has been lost or reduced (henceforth: “housewives”).

559. There are two stages in the process of determining entitlement to a **Disability Pension** for an earner or housewife. In the first stage, a physician on behalf of the NII determines the **medical disability** percentage. Entitlement to pension is examined only for earners for whom a medical **disability** percentage of at least 60% has been determined (or 40%, if at least 25% is determined for him/her from a single **impairment**) and for housewives for whom a medical **disability** percentage of at least 50% is determined.

560. After the medical **disability** percentage is determined, the claims officer determines the degree of **incapacity** to earn/function after consultation with an authorized physician and a rehabilitation clerk. The determination of the **incapacity** degree is based mainly on the earner’s personal characteristics, such as his/her ability to return to his/her previous job (on a full-time or a parttime basis), or to work at a different job, or to learn a new profession (taking into account his/her education level, physical capacity and health condition). Under certain conditions the opinion of the rehabilitation clerk regarding the incapacity degree may be influenced by other variables such as the labor market situation in the **disabled person’s** area of residence. Regarding housewives, the examination of capacity loss is based on functioning in the home.

561. The rate of the pension paid to a **disabled person** stems from the degree of incapacity that was determined for him/her. A **disabled person** is entitled to a pension and to a dependent’s increment for his/her spouse and for up to two children. A “housewife” is not entitled to an increment for his/her spouse.

562. As of December 2007, 189,000 **disabled persons** received General **Disability Pension**, of which 17,000 were housewives and 64,000 were women “earners” – a total of 43% of all those who receive the pension. This rate has remained stable since 2004 as demonstrated by the following table: (see page 144 of the report).

[List of Issues](#)

Health

28. Please inform the Committee of the measures taken by the State party to ensure that the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip did not negative impact the health of women, including older women and **disabled women**, in the Gaza Strip and in particular their access to adequate health services (including adequate equipment) and care. In particular, please provide information regarding measures taken by the State party:

- (a) To prevent restricted access to food and fuel from affecting the health status of women, including anaemia rates;
- (b) To prevent restricted access to secondary health care in Israel from impacting on women’s health issues;
- (c) To address **psycho-social issues of women** caused by the blockade and the aftermath of the conflict from 27 December 2008 to 19 January 2009.

36. Please inform the Committee of any obstacles to the enjoyment of the rights guaranteed under the Convention by older women and **disabled women**, and the measures taken by the State Party to address them.

[Reply to the List of Issues](#)

Question 36

Reply:

According to the 2009 report of the **Commission for Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities**, in 2007, women comprised the majority of the population of **persons with disabilities** in Israel. Of 1.2 million **persons with disabilities**, 650,000 were women. The reason for their majority is the longer life expectancy of women in the total population. This majority is more evident in older ages, in which the rate of the **disabilities** is also higher. To date no updated aggregated data regarding obstacles to the enjoyment of the rights guaranteed under the Convention by older women and **disabled women** is available.

Recommendations from IDA

- To collect adequate data on women and girls with disabilities and use disaggregated data and results of studies to develop policies and programmes to promote equal opportunities for them in society.
- To adopt measures to ensure that women with disabilities are consulted and participate in leadership roles in policy development.
- To raise awareness and provide more information about women and girls with disabilities, who are often subjected to multiple forms of discrimination, especially with regard to access to education, employment, access to health care and violence.
- To address the heightened risk for girls and women with disabilities of becoming victims of domestic violence and abuse, and adopt urgent measures to ensure that both services and information for victims are made accessible to women and girls with disabilities living in institutions and the community.
- To adopt measures to ensure that all health care and services, provided to persons with disabilities, including all mental health care and services, is based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned, and that involuntary treatment and confinement are not permitted by law in accordance with the latest international standards.
- To adopt measures to ensure that all information, healthcare and services relating to sexual and reproductive health are made accessible to women and girls with disabilities, and that they are respectful of the dignity and integrity of persons with disabilities based on the free and informed consent of the individual concerned, and that consensual treatment such as the administration of contraception, or fertility treatments are not denied, while all non-consensual treatment, including that for which consent is given by a third party, is not permitted by law (including *inter alia* forced abortions, forced contraception, and forced sterilisation).
- To consider acceding to the CRPD and its Optional Protocol.