



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Annual Interactive Debate on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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BACKGROUND AND THEME

In its resolution 55/8, the Human Rights Council decided to hold its next annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities at its fifty-eighth session and to focus it on **the rights of persons with disabilities and digital technologies and devices, including assistive technologies**. In its resolution 57/6, the Council decided to include the topic of **countering cyberbullying against persons with disabilities** in the context of that interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities. The debate is informed by the report of OHCHR on the rights of persons with disabilities and digital technologies and devices, including assistive technologies (A/HRC/58/33). This debate is accessible to persons with disabilities through the provision of international sign interpretation and real-time captioning, together with the other accessibility measures.

OPENING STATEMENT

H.E. Mr. Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Today, we gather to celebrate diversity, to honour the achievements of persons with disabilities (PWD) and to uphold what I believe to be the most powerful idea in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that is that all people are born equal. The world is failing to deliver on that promise.



In all regions, PwD are discriminated against and dismissed, held back and held down, undervalued and undermined. They are targeted and ignored, and technology presents, of course, huge opportunities for PwD, but it also comes with huge risks. And these risks broadly fall into two categories, and we must safeguard against both.

Tackling heads-on abhorrent practices in digital spaces

First, digital technologies are creating new spaces for attacks, discrimination and exclusion. In a digital world that often feels lawless, cyberbullying is a rampant and virulent form of violence. It can spread rapidly, target people day and night and perpetuate social exclusion and isolation. In today's online communities, cyberbullying often means that no place is safe. We have even witnessed cyberbullying as a political tool, turning PwD into scapegoats and blaming them for society's ills. This abhorrent practise should have no place in today's world.

New products, old rebottled exclusion

Second, the motto 'Nothing About Us Without Us' has given voice to the idea of meaningful participation. However, PwD are being left out of important conversations about the design and implementation of technology. It means that new products come with the same old exclusion. Without inclusive approaches, we cannot truly answer people's needs, and we end up with even greater inequalities and unintended biases.

Take **e-governance**, for example, which connects governments with the public. Some states, like South Africa, are leading the way when it comes to the co-design and co-creation of e-governance. However, only one in five Member States involves PwD in the creation of these programmes in the justice sector, and just over one in ten in education. It means that persons with disabilities are restricted from accessing vital services and fundamental rights, like health care or voting. Or take online accessibility. Today, only 2% of the 2 billion websites are accessible to everyone. Without accessibility, there is no access to information. We see a compounding of discriminatory practises, and women, as usual, bear the brunt. For example, there is a 2.1 gender gap in Internet access in favour of men with disabilities.

The High Commissioner also highlights an **overarching problem**. Traditional markets simply do not prioritise investments in key assistive products like hearing aids, prosthetics, glasses, and wheelchairs due to lower profitability. These products are essential for exercising multiple rights, enhancing autonomy, and reducing the burden of unpaid care and support, which disproportionately falls on women. Problems with design, access, availability, and quality lock PwD out of progress and deepen their exclusion. Some technology, for example, is designed by men and for men. Women receive prostheses and orthoses designed based on male autonomy, meaning they do not work as well. We need to tackle these glaring gaps, and that means putting people first, prioritising women, highlighting market inefficiencies, and recognising the need for economic reforms.

The High Commissioner has met with and worked with committed PwD over the years, and many of them have pointed out that **their impairment is not the problem**. Discrimination is. We must root out that discrimination and tackle it head-on as individuals and as societies with tireless



energy and commitment. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) encapsulates dignity, autonomy, and independence, and we must renew our push for its full ratification and implementation. OHCHR is committed to this struggle for equality. OHCHR is determined to advance the care and support agenda by tackling gender, disability, and age-based inequalities, and there are already positive results in Spain and Latin America, for example. OHCHR is working with States to develop comprehensive support systems, as in Moldova, and it will continue to collaborate with civil society and the private sector to ensure that PwD are truly seen, consulted, listened to, and respected.

Inclusive technology for uplifting the rights of PwD

In fact, this motto ‘Nothing about us without us’ that came from the disability rights movement, has actually influenced the broader human rights movement and is something very core to what human rights encapsulates for everyone. OHCHR’s position is also very clear. Cyberbullying is ugly and unacceptable. We must confront it everywhere, on every occasion. Digitalisation and innovation must be tools for inclusion, including in care and support systems. They must be designed with and for persons with disabilities. We cannot allow the technology divide to deepen inequalities, and we must live up to the powerful promise that is at the core of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

STATEMENTS BY PANELLISTS

Ms. Sanja TARČAY, President, World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB), BELGIUM

Assistive technology as well as access to it, affordability, and high quality are absolutely necessary. Those are not just simple tools, but facilitators and enablers of full participation and inclusion for PwD. In the 21st century, we are still witnessing many gaps, even though the technology is so advanced. PwD are still struggling to have access those modern technologies. For this reason, they have problems in participation, in being seen and heard.

Many PwD have no access to disability-specific support related to communication, mobility, or any other specific support that specific groups of PwD require. We need to make sure that accessibility and assistive technologies are not privilege, not a luxury. They are basic human rights as enshrined in the CRPD. Countries all over the world have the obligation to ensure that **assistive technology is accessible and affordable** for their own citizens. We all know that that is not actually the case. The right to be included and participation are actually still out of reach for many PwD. A WHO-conducted research shows that **only one out of ten PwD have access to adequate technology**. The biggest problem is that technology is still very expensive. Even though some people need it constantly, it is not something luxurious that they want to have, but it is something that gives them more equal opportunities as for persons without disabilities.

Problematic is not only **affordability**, but also **accessibility** to the right kind of assistive technology. Many PwD still have to accept the mainstream technologies that are not tailored to their needs, making those technologies useless and not the facilitators of inclusion that they are meant to be. It is very specific for deafblind persons as well.

Many States still do not recognise **deafblindness** as a specific disability, which makes it even harder to access assistive technology and adequate support that deafblind persons need. Not



only that they don't have access and cannot afford the assistive technology, the problem is also that there is a lack of professionals and trainers who know how to access deafblind persons and how to teach them how to use those assistive technologies. There are many models and many demo versions of assistive technologies that never surpass that phase, especially for deafblind, which also makes it very inefficient.

There are many gaps that still have to be bridged and still have to be filled. She recalls that the purpose of today's discussion is to reduce these extreme inequalities that we all live in. All of us - governments, civil organisations, public and private sector - must join our efforts in creating efficient solutions for everyone, not only for part of this world. There are already solutions that exist. **We do not need to invent new solutions.** We just need to adapt the ones that exist already. Joint efforts are important in order to build an accessible future, a future which is inclusive and facilitates meaningful participation for absolutely everyone. In closing, Ms. Sanja TARCZAY emphasise that assistive technology for people who have no disabilities can make life easier. But PwD, for her as a deafblind woman, **assistive technology creates opportunities**, possibilities, and an inclusive future.

Ms. Praveena SUKHRAJ-ELY, Chief Director of Governance and Compliance at the Branch of Disability Rights, National Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, SOUTH AFRICA

Digital technology and e-governance systems have the potential and the power to bring about socioeconomic transformation in society. For PwD, they foster participation, reduce reliance on care and support, and enhanced accountability. However, without intentional design, there is a risk of deepening the existing inequalities and further marginalise those we aim to empower. It is therefore critical that governments act decisively to ensure that judicial inclusion becomes a pillar of sustainable development and not just an afterthought. Without this commitment, the **digital divide** will only widen.

We need to acknowledge that there has been phenomenal results that many countries have achieved in the digital space in terms of **e-governance** and **assistive technologies** that have actually shown that there has been improvement in participation. It has promoted non-discrimination and it has also strengthened accountabilities. Accessible e-voting systems, online portals to distribute information, mobile and web applications to monitor responses to natural disasters, telehealth services, access to textbooks and other public information in alternative digital formats, apps to also purchase electricity, airtime, data, access to free Wi-Fi, online complaints mechanisms, virtual court hearings. All of these are examples that have proved to be clear enablers for PwD in terms of digital technologies and e-governance.

Importantly, though, the design of e-governance systems can create barriers through complex or inaccessible interfaces. It is critical, therefore, that digital technologies and innovations, including e-governance systems, need to be **developed in continuous consultation and collaboration with disability organisations and individuals with disability**, to ensure that their lived experience informs the design, the implementation and the process in which we continue to co-create and design technology and e-governance systems. For instance, South Africa has a multi-stakeholder forum that is continuously included in various policy discussions, dialogues, etc., as we move along to ensure that there is always disability responsive and inclusive planning,



budgeting, as we go into the spaces of digital technology and e-governance systems. Now, in terms of **e-governance systems**, it is clear that it offers us opportunities to ensure that there is accessible information and accessible courses for PwD, to ensure that they are provided with digital skills and digital literacy that has the potential to include them in the digital economy.

In this respect, particularly noteworthy are e-recruitment and e-procurement platforms, mobile banking applications, including online shopping applications, as a clear examples of how PwD can live independently with reduced reliance on care and support. States must adopt a disability rights approach to care as well as support systems that clearly recognise the relevance of digital technology and assistive technology. The **diverse needs of PwD** emphasise the value of the balanced approach that needs to be adopted in terms of human rights supports combined with technology. This highlights the importance of expanding access to quality assistive technology, which can greatly improve independence and quality of life for PwD. An integrated system is therefore required to unite accessible infrastructure, reliable human support, and advanced assistive technology, which can then provide the comprehensive care and support essential for individuals to live quality independent lives. It is essential that we have partnerships formed between government, private sector, and civil society.

In many countries, including South Africa, telecommunication service providers are required to contribute to universal service funds and mechanisms such as universal coverage in terms of licencing agreements are used to finance digital infrastructure and also assistive technology for PwD. Therefore, States need to foster these partnerships to be able to put in place **subsidised assistive technology programmes**, digital literacy programmes, and accessible learning platforms for children with disabilities. Early access to digital technology is crucial for equipping children with disabilities with the necessary digital skills, which will foster participation in education and the economy, breaking the cycle of exclusion and dependency. In terms of reporting and **strengthening accountability**, it is critical to have automated reporting systems within countries. South Africa is still struggling to automate reporting, which puts pressure on the Government to monitor compliance. An automated reporting system with indicators to check on how the Government is performing on disabilities will help in terms of responsive planning, budgeting, and strengthening accountability.

In conclusion, it is imperative for States to innovate and implement to ensure that there is non-discrimination, participation, and reduced reliance on care and support to help strengthen accountability and build an inclusive, equitable digital future. We clearly have the tools, we have the knowledge, we have the capacity, to make sure that digital spaces are truly inclusive. The question we need to ask ourselves is, do we have the political will?

**Ms. Nikki LILY, Patron of Face Equality International, Digital Creator and TV Presenter,
UNITED KINGDOM**

Face Equality International is a global alliance of not-for-profits working with persons with physical disabilities. Face Equality International estimates that around 72 million people have a visible difference. Ms. Nikki LILY a proud member of this community, as well as an author, television presenter, and a YouTuber. She first became a social media user at the age of eight. Two years earlier, doctors had given her a life-changing diagnosis of an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) on her face. This turned her life upside down. Hospitals became her second home, and she



had to give up all the activities she had previously enjoyed. As her condition developed, her appearance changed too, and she found the adjustment very hard. As a child, her small online presence was supervised by her parents. It gave her connections, which she could pursue from her hospital, and took her mind off the realities she was facing. Recording videos also helped her confront her appearance. **Social media became a lifeline for her.** But even as a child, posting content as someone with a visible difference led to hate, comments from strangers. These were not just children, but adults too. At the time, around 20% of the comments were negative and about her appearance, although now, that percentage has grown. They called her ugly, a monster, told her that if they looked like her, they would kill themselves, or suggested that her face was a reason to use contraception. Beliefs target difference, and facial difference is probably the difference which stands out the most in the online world.

The **online hatred related to her visible disability** continues now as an adult, and can sometimes be sexualised too. She has had my videos stolen, used as clickbait, and dubbed to include dangerous health misinformation. She has reported hateful comments to social media platforms, but rarely with response. Even when vile content is ultimately removed, the delay means that millions of people have already seen it, and blocked users often just re-register. Platform content filters detecting ableist language often do not solve the problem of slurs about facial difference. Sadly, she is not alone in my experience of cyberbullying. A 2021 study conducted in the US found that one third of teenage participants with a craniofacial condition had experienced cyberbullying, although only around half usually reported. A 2017 survey from the UK charity Changing Faces found that 92% of visibly different participants who had used dating apps had received negative comments about their appearance from other users. Social media can be a force for good, and a mouthpiece for those who feel voiceless in society.

Positive representation is something she is truly passionate about. Visibly different faces are still commonly used to denote evil in popular culture. Challenging these stereotypes is critical. Faster reporting processes which recognise the increased risk of hatred towards people with visible disabilities are essential. We also need content filters to be strengthened in consultation with the visible difference community, and a **stricter platform accountability** to ensure this happens. But this is not just about platforms. Governments need to take action too. The facial difference community are often ignored within the legal and policy system. Especially within systems based on a medical model of disability, which fail to recognise the extreme social barriers encountered by those with facial differences. The country reporting system under the CRPD offers an important opportunity to counter this continued marginalisation at a policy level.

True digital inclusion is essential for economic and social participation. In many countries, facial recognition is increasingly a part of everyday life. But this technology is failing the facial different community. Many people with facial differences have trouble accessing banking apps or using automatic passport gates. There are also persons unable to apply for jobs, or struggling to obtain official identity documents because the traditional technology does not recognise their face. This digital exclusion threatens their ability to support themselves and to participate fully in society. The rise of AI image generators risks reinforcing that negative stereotype of people with facial differences. This technology and the people operating it need to be trained correctly in consultation with this community. The UNHRC has the power to make the human rights of people with visible differences visible at last. This means investment in accessible digital systems, which



treats all faces equally. Stronger platform accountability and inclusive policies to ensure that everyone can contribute to society equally.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ms. Sanja TARCZAY emphasises the need to support OHCHR as much as possible in order for them to be able to work, include, involve persons and organisations of PwD worldwide more efficiently, not only in everyday life, but also in work and in the market. All the stakeholders and governments should try to listen and open the door for PwD that keep on knocking on them. If we want to see a better future for all of us, and not only for PwD, we have to train empathy.

In terms of PwD organizations' impact to bolster the disability rights agenda, **Ms. Praveena SUKHRAJ-ELY** believes it is vital they play an integral role in all agencies - be it the G20, BRICS, the Commonwealth, and other fora. The issues around disability need to be raised across various sectors, because disability is a cross-cutting issue touching upon education, employment, climate change, etc. When speaking about natural disasters or about PwD in rural areas, it is vital that PwD or their organizations can raise their voices to ensure that strategies are inclusive of PwD. Online service and complaint systems need to be put at the forefront of the planning agendas of national governments to ensure that when PwD require e-justice systems or social services for instance, they are actually able to use these and also receive responses in real-time. This will then also help with tracking, strengthening accountability, and ensuring non-discrimination. It also reduces care and support reliance that currently occurs when there is no digital technology and other accessible measures in place. To conclude, we need to make sure that we are inclusive in everything, including in digital technology. It can be used as an innovator, a game-changer, an empowerer. We need to make sure that we maximise the use of these devices, the innovation to help with implementing disability inclusion across the board.

Regarding especially facial differences, **Ms. Nikki LILY** believes there is a lack of statistics and funding, as the issue regarding visible differences has often gone under-looked. To make online environments more inclusive for people with visible disabilities, this starts with greater participation in tech development, with facial recognition being trained for people with different faces that have visible differences and different disability conditions, therefore being more holistic and encompassing everyone and their needs and their faces and being more accepting. As the online world changes rapidly, the relevant community needs to be involved in the conversation of monitoring social media and in the online world. Social media can be such a force for good and change. There is a need to work towards a more whole world in social media in which everyone feels happy and looks forward to using it.

FINAL REMARKS

Ms. Heba HAGRASS, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, thanks the three panellists for sharing their lived experiences. The importance of listening to them and their voices and vivid description of their everyday lived experience not only portrays their suffering, but also the way they want to live their lives and the way they want to see it fit. Revealing their experiences with digital technology, cyberbullying and its violence is a call for programmers and software developers to understand their problems and to provide solutions for them. This is really the role of the new technologies.



INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Taking the floor on behalf of **Albania**, H.E. Ms. Danada Seferi, **Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection**, reaffirms her country's commitment to the rights of children with disabilities by prioritising digital and assistive technologies for inclusion, accessibility and protection. Albania has taken concrete steps to bridge the digital divide for children with disabilities. Through our Agenda for Children's Rights and the National Strategy for Social Protection, Albania is advancing inclusive education by expanding resource centres, integrating assistive technologies in classrooms and improving digital accessibility. Currently, resource classrooms support students with disabilities, while assistant teachers enhance inclusion across vocational and pre-university education. Recognising the importance of communication, the Albanian National Association of the Deaf has led efforts in developing the Albanian Sign Language Dictionary, the first online dictionary now contains around 900 signs and is being expanded with 300 new entries. For blind students, the Institute for Blind Students serves as a resource centre, equipped with a modern brain laboratory and an audio recording studio, ensuring access to academic and artistic literature. To counter cyberbullying and safeguard children in digital space, Albania is strengthening legal frameworks and awareness programmes, empowering educators and families to protect vulnerable children online. Furthermore, mobile services and social health centres provide multidisciplinary support, ensuring children with disabilities receive quality education, health care and social services tailored to their needs. Albania remains committed to advancing digital inclusion and calls for global collaboration to enhance access to digital tools and inclusive policies, ensuring no child is left behind in an increasingly digital world.

On behalf of the **Nordic-Baltic countries**, **Estonia** thanks the panellists for their highly relevant remarks and insights and the High Commissioner for his latest report on PwD and digital technologies and devices. Well-designed e-governance contributes to good governance and improves lives by alleviating the burden on individuals in vulnerable situations. Robust regulation is essential to preventing exclusion, discrimination and privacy violations. Actions to drive the digital inclusion of PwD must be informed by an understanding of local issues and contexts, ensuring that the perspectives and needs of all PwD, from data protection measures to product design and accessibility, are taken into account to guarantee their full and equal participation in society. This helps to prevent and reduce the digital gap, inequality and discrimination from widening. Another important topic discussed today is cyberbullying. We agree that initiatives to counter cyberbullying require a holistic approach that addresses discrimination against PwD in both online and offline manifestation.

Jordan on behalf of the **Arab Group** reaffirms the importance of accessibility via technologies so that PwD can fully participate in the life of society. It is crucial to overcome challenges, there are multiple, especially for persons living under occupation and facing the Israeli aggression which continues to destroy infrastructure and hospitals and place limitations on access to humanitarian assistance. Civilians in Gaza have suffered attacks and there are now 17,000 persons with disabilities in Gaza. The occupying power must assume its responsibilities. It is crucial to end this indifference and take into account the particular needs of PwD living under occupation.



As **Malaysia** assumes the ASEAN Championship in 2025 under the theme Inclusivity and Sustainability, **ASEAN** reaffirms its commitment to advancing digital transformation towards an inclusive digital society. Building on the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, Malaysia explains that ASEAN has made significant strides in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities while ensuring their digital inclusion and accessibility to technology. All ASEAN countries have ratified the CRPD and the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025 provides a strategic framework to mainstream disability rights across ASEAN's three pillars. The ASEAN Declaration on Disability Inclusive Development and Partnership for a Resilient ASEAN Community, adopted in 2023, strengthens our collective commitment to integrating disability rights into regional policies. Moving forward, ASEAN seeks to harmonise disability-related concepts across the region in line with the CRPD and other relevant international frameworks. ASEAN emphasises the need to build global and regional collaboration in policy, research, evaluation, training, education and combating stigma and discrimination that are relevant to the lives, care and social inclusion of all PwD. Finally, ASEAN calls for further collaboration with ASEAN partners, organisations and for PwD and the private sector to enhance protection and empowerment, ensuring sustainable projects and funding for disability-inclusive development, including through cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Ghana, on behalf of the **African Group**, emphasizes that digital and assistive technologies are vital enablers of empowerment, independence and equal participation for persons with disabilities. However, barriers related to access, affordability and infrastructure continue to hinder their full potential, especially in developing countries. To address these challenges, the African Group underscores the urgent need for international cooperation, technology transfer and sustainable financial support to make assistive technologies more accessible. The African Group Disability Strategy and Agenda 2063 envisions a digitally inclusive Africa where PwD have equal access to technologies, education and economic opportunities, ensuring full participation in all aspects of society. In this regard, the African Group stresses the importance of integrating disability-inclusive policies into national digital strategies to bridge the digital divide and foster equal opportunities for all. The African Group deplores the increasing prevalence of cyberbullying against PwD, which threatens their dignity, wellbeing and digital engagement. Accordingly, the African Group urges governments, technology companies and civil society to implement rights-based policies that create safe, inclusive and accessible online space for PwD.

Speaking on behalf of a group of countries, the **United Arab Emirates** states that new and emerging technologies have the potential to serve as powerful tools for providing sustainable solutions to global challenges. The CRPD highlights the necessity for research and ensuring access to new technologies. In this regard, we emphasise that the use of technology can foster the participation and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life. Assistive technologies and AI-driven tools can greatly enhance the daily living experiences of PwD. These innovations not only foster independence, but also contribute to building self-esteem, ensuring that PwD can live full and meaningful lives in a society that respects their rights. It is equally important to address the challenges new technologies may pose to the rights of PwD. We must ensure the development of international standards that safeguard safety, efficiency and equitable access. Let us advance global efforts for disability inclusion, reaffirming our shared commitment to leaving no one behind.



On behalf of the **Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP)**, **Mozambique** explains that in an increasingly digitalised world, the CPLP reaffirms its commitment to promoting digital inclusion and strengthening digital and assistive technologies as essential tools for guaranteeing the rights of PwD. In this context, the fight against cyberbullying becomes a priority, considering its negative impacts on dignity, well-being and social participation of PwD. Despite the progress made, there are still significant challenges to overcome. In many countries, including CPLP countries, there are still barriers that limit PwD's access to digital environments. Furthermore, cyberbullying as a form of digital violence exacerbates the marginalisation of PwD and compromises their mental and emotional health. Against this backdrop, the CPLP countries have been working together to promote the exchange of good practises, strengthen inclusive public policies and combat all forms of discrimination and digital violence with a view to realising the human rights of PwD. Betting on the development and dissemination of assistive technologies is essential to ensure that PwD can fully exercise their rights and actively participate in a digital society. In closing, Mozambique reiterates the CPLP's call for states to multiply their efforts to ensure full digital accessibility, eliminating technological barriers and promoting the use of assistive solutions. Only through collective commitment and concrete action can a truly inclusive digital environment be built where no one is left behind.

Burkina Faso takes the floor as President of the **Committee on Assistance to Victims under the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention**, which includes Austria, Netherlands, Sri Lanka and Burkina Faso itself. Praising OHCHR's report, many recommendations of the report are in line with the [Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029](#) under the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention. The plan has nine concrete actions to support victims and ensure their rights, as well as meeting the needs of survivors of mines and explosive devices. Recognising the importance of a rights-based approach, the Action Plan is aligned on the CRPD. The topic for debate this year is particularly relevant for victim assistance because actions 35 to 39 of the plan guarantee access to assistive technologies, overcoming obstacles to ensure full, effective inclusion of survivors. However, there is an ongoing major challenge, access to assistive technologies in rural and remote areas, particularly in communities still affected by mines and other explosive devices.

Taking the floor on behalf of the **Benelux** countries, **Luxembourg** states that assistive and digital technologies can be powerful enablers to strengthen the independence and autonomy of PwD if a human rights-based approach is incorporated into their design, development and operation. Against the background of rapidly developing technologies, it is crucial to prevent and mitigate the potential negative human rights impacts of digitalisation and artificial intelligence. Certain AI tools perpetuate disability bias and risk creating new barriers with adverse effects on the daily lives of PwD. Automated decision-making systems based on discriminatory algorithms, lack of representative data sets and flawed arithmetic reasoning risk reproducing existing patterns of discrimination. In the very spirit of 'Nothing about us without us', PwD should be actively involved in decision-making processes such as an inclusive e-governance, human rights-based care and support systems, robust anti-discrimination legislation and strategies countering cyberbullying. Importantly, they should be at the heart of the creation and development of assistive and digital technologies.

On behalf of New Zealand and Mexico as **Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of the CRPD**, **New Zealand** recognises the importance of accessible, affordable and high-quality digital and



assistive technologies as fundamental elements of a disability-inclusive, human rights-based care and support systems. These technologies carry both benefits and risks for communities of PwD. Identified benefits include the use of technologies to improve access to important elements of social life, such as schooling. However, the Group recognises that digital technologies, particularly the use of AI, have the potential to reduce access in areas such as employment if they are not developed with fair and ethical participation in mind. Digital inclusion of PwD is critical for ensuring participation, accountability and non-discrimination. Digital inclusion also enhances agency and empowerment in online spaces, contributing to safer digital environments that help counter cyberbullying. To this end, the Group recognises the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach to digital and assistive technologies, including AI. This requires anchoring the use, development and regulation of digital technologies in the international human rights framework to prevent the exclusion of groups in marginalised situations.

The Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia** enhances the rights of PwD, especially in the digital sphere, and the assistive devices to enhance their independent and effective participation in society. Hence, the Kingdom has a legal framework that prohibits all forms of discrimination against PwD and provides equal opportunities, including in the digital sphere. The Kingdom enhances digital inclusiveness by providing assistive technologies and the development of e-platforms that bear in mind their specific needs. Saudi Arabia pays due attention to the protection of PwD from cyberbullying and digital exploitation. The legislation has been enhanced to achieve this purpose, in addition to awareness-raising campaigns to create a safe digital environment. The Kingdom is fully committed to pursue efforts to empower PwD and to increase their access to modern technologies in order for them to have a dignified and equal participation in society.

In **Cameroon**, access is a major challenge for PwD, but numerical and assistance technologies facilitate access to public services, education and employment. In Cameroon, progress has been made through training from digital accessibility and improvement of access to adaptive equipment. However, the high costs of assistive technologies and the lack of accessible infrastructure are challenges. Therefore, Cameroon calls for increased international cooperation to ensure accessibility, especially for developing countries. Furthermore, cyberbullying is a growing threat which hinders the inclusion of PwD online and renders them vulnerable to psychological violence. There must be effective legislative frameworks, awareness campaigns and accessible complaints mechanisms to remedy this. True digital inclusion needs to be a global priority. We must adopt an approach based on human rights, ensuring universal access to digital tools and reducing the north-south technological gap via a transfer of skills and technologies. Cameroon remains committed to the rights of PwD in line with the CRPD and regional instruments.

Poland remains strongly committed to protection and promoting the rights of PwD with respect for their dignity, autonomy and the rights to independent living. The Polish Government aims to fully include persons with various types of disability in all areas of society, with particular emphasis on the labour market. An essential element in supporting PwD is to ensure their access to assistive technologies which play a vital role in education, rehabilitation and professional activities. The Polish State Fund for the Rehabilitation of PwD implements a number of programmes aligned with the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities for 2021-2030. PwD, especially those with psychosocial and cognitive impairments, face higher risk of cyberbullying.



They may struggle with the nuances of online communication and are less likely to report harassments due to social stigma. Creating a safe, accessible digital environment is crucial to protect them from abuse, overprotection and intrusion.

The **Democratic Republic of Congo** supports the idea that digital technologies and assistive technologies provide opportunities to improve the living quality of life of these people and their right to live independently in society. Access to digital technologies is enshrined in the national Constitution, and this encompasses as well access for PwD. Digital technologies enable PwD to be fully involved in society; to benefit from the digital advantages; and to overcome the obstacles which could exclude them from these advantages. The DRC is committed to making digital technologies more accessible in order to continue to promote the inclusion and equality of opportunities for all.

Access to assistive products is essential to progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and realising the CRPD which **Tanzania** has ratified. In this regard, in December 2024, the Government launched the National Assistive Technology Strategy of 2024-2027 which is consistent with its commitment to prioritise disability-inclusive development. The objectives of the strategy include creating an enabling environment that brings together multi-sectoral collaborative efforts and to improve the accessibility, affordability and availability of assistive technology for PwD and others in need of assistive technology. Moreover, it aims to improve the availability of qualified and competent human resources for the provision of assistive technology services at all levels and to increase the supply of safe, effective and affordable assistive products that meet national and international quality standards. The strategic areas of focus include policy, governance and leadership, assistive products and financing and costing. We believe that a people-centred assistive technology ecosystem will enable PwD to live healthy, productive, independent and dignified lives.

Australia was proud to release a new international disability, equity and rights strategy in November. Embedding disability, equity and rights as a key component of our international engagement. Throughout consultations, Australia consistently heard that assistive technologies are critical enablers to the full and meaningful participation of PwD. In response, the strategy identified the promotion of preconditions for inclusion, a framework to remove barriers to the equal participation of PwD, which includes assistive technology as a strategic priority. To deliver on this priority, Australia is increasing our support for equitable access to assistive technologies across the Indo-Pacific. This will include enabling school-aged children to access high-quality vision, hearing and mobility screening and affordable high-quality devices, supporting them to live healthier, more productive, independent and dignified lives.

Malawi has taken steps to promote the use of assistive technologies by PwD as well as the measures to address the challenges they face, such as cyberbullying. The Persons with Disabilities Act 2024 recognises that PwD have the right to access information and communication technologies and that propagation of information has to be accessible in an accessible format. Malawi also enacted the Electronic Transaction and Cyber Security Act in 2016, which, among others, criminalises the cyber harassment, offensive communication and cyberstalking. Recognizing, however, that more needs to be done, Malawi continues to address existing gaps in the law as well as enhancing our policy and institutional setup.



To empower PwD, **India** has implemented several initiatives, notably comprehensive legislation on the rights of PwD. India is committed to ensuring the inclusion of all categories of disabilities, including intellectual, developmental and mental disabilities, through rehabilitation programmes and statutory bodies for implementation. It also emphasises enabling PwD to excel in sports with national and international participation. Furthermore, India provides education and government jobs for PwD, promoting their access to opportunities. Its efforts focus on creating a barrier-free environment for PwD. Through the Accessible India Campaign launched in 2015, India has improved infrastructure, transportation and digital platforms to make them more accessible. The National Education Policy of 2020 focusses on inclusive education and the professional development of teachers to support students with disabilities. India is also at the forefront of promoting digital inclusion for PwD. With increasing reliance on technology, it has prioritised the development and integration of assistive technologies to ensure that digital platforms are accessible to all. Initiatives like accessible e-governance services, screen readers and assistive mobile apps are being implemented to bridge the digital divide. These technologies empower PwD by enhancing their access to education, employment and public services, thus fostering greater participation in the digital world.

China considers it crucial to strengthen accessibility and prevent digital divide. China attaches great importance to the rights of PwD and has passed the first law on accessibility construction; established the world's first rehabilitation university; actively implemented the CRPD; ratified the Marrakesh Treaty; and is committed to reducing various barriers faced by PwD by providing incentives and guidance to build a barrier-free environment in the whole society. An information system has been launched to disseminate relevant laws and regulations. Normative documents and international treaties are listed and made available. The recently amended law on the popularisation of science and technology contains specific provisions in favour of PwD. The law requires the dissemination of knowledge in areas such as health, internet, smart technology, emergency safety to enhance their ability to access, identify and apply information. China stands ready to continue efforts to advance the cause of PwD.

Digital technology significantly improves the lives of PwD, but digital exclusion and the digital divide exacerbate the existing barriers they encounter. **Bangladesh** remains committed to creating an inclusive and accessible digital landscape where PwD can participate fully in society. The national 'Rights and Protection of PwD Act' mandates digital inclusion. Bangladesh has taken several initiatives in order to promote access to and develop new technology for PwD. Its Disability Innovation Lab is leveraging technology and innovation to empower PwD and create a more inclusive society. The Government's largest e-learning platform, the National Board of Government Services and the National Helpline are all accessible to PwD. Bangladesh has developed a multimedia talking book which enables students with disabilities to access primary and secondary education on an equal footing. It has also launched an accessible dictionary to empower PwD to explore new knowledge. The high cost of digital technology, especially assistive devices, remain a major barrier to digital inclusion of PwD. Transfer of relevant technology to middle and low-income countries could help overcome this barrier.

Italy considers the full realisation of non-discrimination, accessibility, effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities paramount. As highlighted by OHCHR, digital and assistive technologies can be powerful enablers of inclusion. Ensuring their availability, affordability,



accessibility and safety is essential. We must foster human-centred policies promoting equitable access to technology, enhancing independence, greater participation and improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities. Italy reiterates its unwavering commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of PwD. This commitment is reflected in the recent comprehensive reform of the National Legal Framework for Disability through the organisation of the first ever G7 Ministerial on Inclusion and Disability in October 2024 and by an exhibition at the Palais des Nations at the beginning of this session. Italy is determined to counter direct and indirect discrimination and facilitate meaningful participation of PwD in all aspects of life. Protection policy should also remain an absolute priority in humanitarian action. In this regard, Italy recalls its open pledge made at the 44th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and opened to endorsement from other stakeholders to enhance the protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities during armed conflict and disaster.

Kazakhstan continues to address broader social issues through forward-looking initiatives. In the field of digital technologies, the prevention of access to information through digital platforms, e-governance and assistive technologies for PwD is a key aspect of Kazakhstan's policy. Kazakhstan's concept of inclusive policy through 2030 aims to create conditions for the full social integration of PwD, ensuring equality and non-discrimination. Accessibility measures including audio description, sign language interpretation and accessible keyboard navigation are being implemented on approximately 3,000 government websites. Families with children, including 100,000 raising children with disabilities, are entitled to certain types of social benefits and payments. The new digital family card has been integrated with the information systems of different public bodies, allowing entitlements to support to be automatically calculated and proactively proposed to those who are eligible. Since last year, Kazakhstan has enhanced its legislative framework by implementing administrative fines for child bullying in children, demonstrating a proactive approach to addressing this critical issue and promoting a safer online experience for those most in need of support. Kazakhstan is committed to further protecting and promoting rights of PwD, guided by the principles of leaving no one behind.

The **Lao PDR** emphasises that the digital and assistive technologies play a key role in addressing many barriers faced by PwD, including accessibility and inclusion, and thus improving their lives, learning and working more functionally and independently. However, digital divide and inequality of access to affordable assistive technology remains a major issue, especially in the least developed and developing countries. The Lao PDR attaches importance to the promotion and protection of legitimate rights of PwD by creating necessary conditions for them to receive assistance, treatment and help, rehabilitation and to participate in social activities. In this regard, the national law, strategy and action plan on PwD have been adopted and implemented to ensure equal opportunities, dignity and non-discrimination against PwD. In conclusion, the Lao PDR reaffirms its commitment to continue engagement and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including development partners and national disabilities organisations, enhancing better support for PwD in the country.

Deeply attached to social inclusion, **Senegal** promotes a policy to ensure the effective participation of PwD in all aspects of life. Thus Senegal adopted its social orientation law in 2010, thanks to which rightsholders can apply for an equality card giving the right to enjoy free healthcare in medical institutions and reduced fees in private institutions in Senegal since 2015.



Over 70,000 people have received this card, including 20,000 children with disabilities under 18. With regard to accessibility of public buildings, Senegal is careful to obey the Construction Code including accessibility measures such as braille, audiovisual support and voice-activated lifts. Similarly, for newly built university buildings, there is a mechanism that facilitates access to lecture halls and the library for PwD. Similar accessibility measures have also been applied to the public transport system. To conclude, Senegal remains firmly convinced that the effective inclusion of PwD in all sectors of society starts with their full involvement in decision-making processes so that their legitimate expectations can be fully taken into account.

For the **Dominican Republic**, social inclusion and equal access to digital technologies are fundamental pillars in our human rights policy. The inclusion of digital technologies and support technologies in care systems for PwD is crucial to guarantee effective inclusion for them in society. The Dominican Republic has made significant progress forward in the adoption of emerging technologies to support PwD. It adopted a legal framework promoting the inclusion of various aspects of our social and public life. This is ranging from inclusive platforms, accessible educational applications, to AI in education and financial inclusion. It has also worked on tailored solutions, improving access to services and promoting the independence of PwD. Technological initiatives such as sign language, translation systems and audio description systems provide greater access to information. It also recognises the importance of privacy and the protection of human rights in the use of technology, while sharing the concern that new technologies may negatively affect the right to privacy as a fundamental right linked to the dignity and guarantees of due process.

Benin takes note of the progress made and remaining challenges to overcome in the implementation of the Beijing declaration programme of action in the last few years which has created an enhanced legal machinery to promote the rights of PwD, especially those at risk and in humanitarian emergencies, through the enshrining in the constitution of a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability, the creation of a Commission for the implementation of inclusion measures for PwD, as well as the adoption of special measures to promote employment and entrepreneurship of PwD. Furthermore, Benin has created governing bodies and digital programmes as well as a Supervisory Council of digital investigations to combat all forms of discrimination or violence. Benin supports recommendations designed to integrate digital and assistive technologies in governance systems to promote better coverage of the needs of women and girls who have a disability.

The **United Kingdom** recognises the transformative impact that digital and assistive technology can have for PwD. Two and a half billion people globally need to use at least one type of assistive technology, but in low-income countries, only 10% of people have access to what they need. The UK notes the report's recommendations on building strong partnerships. The UK's [AT2030 programme](#) will soon launch the Assistive Technology Growth Fund, an ambitious pathway for high-potential assistive technology, bringing together traditional donors and private capital. The UK also thanks the SR on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for her report on the Beijing Declaration on Women and Girls with Disabilities. When women, girls and other marginalised groups are empowered, they lift up whole families, communities and economies. Through its partnerships with grassroots women's rights organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities and its engagement in multilateral fora, the UK will continue to empower and



champion the rights of all women and girls, amplifying the voices and agency of women and girls with disabilities.

Views Expressed by Inter-Governmental Organizations

The **European Union** reaffirms its commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD. The digital transition must be inclusive and accessible, ensuring that all individuals have equal rights and can benefit from technological advancement without discrimination. Yet accessibility alone is not enough. Affordability, usability and reasonable accommodation should also be prioritised. Digital and assistive technologies have transformative potential in fostering independence and full, effective and meaningful participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all respects. However, challenges persist. Cyberbullying and online hate speech have to be addressed with a specific view to persons with disabilities as they are disproportionately affected. The EU is working to create safer digital environments, to hold platforms accountable and remove barriers to e-governance, education and employment. The EU calls for global cooperation to advance inclusive digital policies and ensure that technology serves as the tool for empowerment. The issue will be raised during the third Global Disability Summit on 2nd and 3rd April in Berlin. We must join efforts to build a world where digital transformation leaves no one behind.

Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions

The **National Council of Morocco** explains that the digital and assisted technologies are central to its work in protecting human rights. They help empower but also present challenges, discriminations, biases and risks to rights and freedoms. The Council actively monitors and engage on these issues through our disability rights mechanism, our 12 regional commissions and our collaborations with national and international partners including UN agencies. It welcomes Morocco's progress in disability rights including normative frameworks. Most recently, the introduction of service entitlement cards and an accessible digital platform for this purpose mark a step forward. Digital and assistive technologies can empower PwD. They can have a real impact on their daily lives, breaking barriers and amplifying autonomy. However, access remains unequal, leaving millions excluded. The Council therefore joins the Global Disability Rights movement in calling for affordable and accessible solutions to ensure no one is left behind. It urges the Moroccan Government to invest more in these technologies and full accessibility of all public digital platforms. Beyond access, safety is critical in the digital space for everyone, including PwD. In this connection, it recommends stronger legal protections, accountability for online abuse and harassment, awareness campaigns but also platform accountability and regulation at UN and international level. The Council also works to advocate for harmonisation of Article 12 CRPD. It recommends true digital inclusion which requires accessibility and human rights in the design, development and deployment of technology.

As digital technology expands, PwD face growing challenges. Since 2019, the **National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK)** has issued recommendations to ensure equal access, including advocating for a legal amendment to extend accessibility requirements beyond websites to mobile applications. To promote digital inclusion, the NHRCK has introduced initiatives such as electronic browser service and barrier-free self-checkout kiosks in our human rights library. However, significant failures remain, including the high cost and limited support for



assistive technology. These challenges unlikely impact marginalised groups such as women, children and all persons with disabilities, worsening digital inequality.

The **Qatar National Human Rights Committee** is monitoring the national implementation of the CRPD. It has noticed significant progress in fostering integration and providing job opportunities, healthcare and infrastructure for PwD. With the Qatar World Cup in 2022, there was a pivotal shift in taking care of PwD, notably by making transportation means accessible for all. At the national level, it is noteworthy to mention the establishment of a comprehensive national database for PwD. In this respect, a major challenge faced by many countries is the misconception that such a database merely involves counting PwD. The Commission refers to a benchmark established by WHO in cooperation with ESCWA. Developing such a database implies challenges related to the full coverage. The state of Qatar said that it is developing a comprehensive national database and the Commission hopes it will be implemented soon.

This year, the **Scottish Human Rights Commission** has measured progress in ending practises of institutionalisation using Article 19 CRPD indicators. The Commission has found evidence of direct violations of Article 19 and also serious concerns about the rights to liberty, to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to equal recognition before the law and to private and family life. Persons with learning disabilities and autistic persons are still being held in institutions in breach of their human rights. Little progress has been made during the course of the Scottish Government's action plan to end this practise. The Coming Home Implementation Plan published in 2022 had committed to facilitating a move out of hospital to independent living by March 2024 and to prevent new unnecessary admissions for anything other than medical need. Research carried out by the Commission shows that the plan has failed to deliver the right to independent living and persons with learning disabilities continue to spend many years living in hospitals. The Commission's research utilises the clear guidance provided by the CRPD Committee on deinstitutionalization and has called on the Scottish Government to use that framework to end practises of institutionalisation once and for all.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The **International Disability Alliance** appreciates the words of the panellists, in particular on the need to have the correct understanding of disability itself. This means reinforcing the paradigm shift of the CRPD, the social and human rights model of disability, understanding that it is the societal response to human diversity that must change for the better. In other words, we must fix society, not fix individuals, and this applies both to assistive technology and cyberbullying. Digital and assistive technologies (DAT) do have a significant role in helping bridge the gap between exclusion and inclusion for PwD, and this technology should be provided as a matter of right for all PwD, including for those with high support or complex needs, respecting their autonomy and choice. The Alliance also understands that DAT is only part of the solution. Sustainable societal change with inclusive laws, policies, attitudes, financial and human support for PwD are key requirements for us to be able to advance towards a world that fulfils the obligations and the promise of the CRPD. A world that is not inclusive of PwD is a world that is incomplete.

The **Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women** and Women with Disabilities Development Foundation stress that women with disabilities still do not have complete access to digital and assistive technologies. Their double marginalisations of disability and gender make



them more vulnerable to violence and exclusion from facing cyberbullying. Article 9 CRPD promotes accessibility in all aspects of life. They demand that accessible digital and assistive technologies be prioritised and made available at minimum cost to women and girls with disabilities so that they can achieve their full potential, particularly in sexual and reproductive health, education and employment. They urge Member States to create mechanisms for building awareness against gender-based violence, protective strategies and safe digital environment in accordance with Article 5 on Equality and Non-Discrimination and Article 6 on Women with Disabilities of CRPD. They demand strict measures be taken for incidents of cyberbullying, particularly for women and girls with disabilities. Government must prioritise, introduce and implement disability-inclusive national human rights policies, allocate adequate budget and resources for enhanced digital literacy.

The Star Project psychological interview programme for 100 Families with Autism, launched by the **Beijing Guangming Charity Foundation**, aims to provide a voice for families with autism to express their opinions and challenges. Autistic families face many difficulties in rehabilitation, education, employment and other aspects. The social support system is not yet perfect, there is a shortage of professional talent, and discrimination and prejudice still exist. The Foundation hopes to raise more attention and care for the autism community through interviews, eliminate prejudice and create a more inclusive and harmonious social environment for them. The Foundation look forward to working together with global partners to promote the development of autism and provide more help and support for families with autism.

The **International Volunteerism Organisation for Women, Education and Development (VIDES)** welcomes this annual debate on the rights of PwD and digital technologies. While the internet offers opportunities, it also presents significant risks. Cyberbullying particularly affects adolescents and young persons with disabilities, hindering their right to live free from such harm in digital spaces. Among them, girls and young women are even more exposed to online threats, including sexual abuse. Assistive technologies are essential to ensure that PwD fully enjoy their right to education, yet access to digital education remains inequitable and not inclusive. Many online platforms are not designed with accessibility in mind, creating barriers for students with disabilities. The digital divide is even more pronounced for young PwD in rural areas, where unstable internet access and a lack of assistive devices hinder their learning and future prospects. VIDES addresses some recommends to Member States. First, effectively implement existing laws to prevent and address cyberbullying and online threats, especially for girls and young women with disabilities, ensuring that victims receive adequate support. Second, develop policies to ensure that digital platforms are fully accessible, inclusive and safe for young PwD. Third, provide accessible, affordable and high-quality assistive and digital technologies as fundamental elements of disability-responsive human rights-based care and support systems.

The **Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos** stresses the importance of making the right to accessibility real. But for this it is necessary to overcome at least three major challenges. First, the high cost for design, development, manufacturing and distribution. Second, the abandonment of the manufacture of smartphones and computer programmes because they are left obsolete without alternatives for the installation of support technology programmes. Third, the barrier of reading digital documents, web pages and other applications because they are not compatible with screen reading applications. To overcome these challenges, it is necessary a



joint action between States and industry and service sectors so that PwD can enjoy a life with autonomy. Older people are often seen as less deserving of support to maintain their autonomy and live independently in the community. Ageism, abuse and neglect, including cyberbullying and financial scams are a reality for older people. Digital and assistive technologies have the potential to improve the lives of older people as well as PwD if technologies are available, accessible and acceptable without discrimination of any kind. Digital literacy enables us to access reliable information, prevent abuse and combat ageist attitudes and policies. Older persons have the right to learn, to enjoy life, to live independently in the community and to be supported to do that, whatever our condition, whatever our age, wherever we live. An international, legally binding instrument on the rights of older persons will assist governments in promoting, protecting and fulfilling our rights.

The **Iraqi Development Organisation** expresses deep concerns over the ongoing denial of health care and reasonable accommodation to political prisoners with physical disabilities. Another example is Dr. A. Singaz, a prominent human rights defender with a physical disability who has been arbitrarily detained for 14 years. Suffering from post-polio syndrome, Dr. A. Singaz endures severe joint pain and struggles with inadequate crutches. Despite his condition, authorities deny him essential medical care, including proper crutches, replacements for worn rubber tips, medical slippers and MRI. Since July 2021, he has been on a solid full hunger strike, yet his requests for critical tests and assistive devices remain unmet. Despite being detained at Cannes Medical Centre, authorities subject him to solitary confinement and deny him medical care, further impaling his ability to walk and subject him to a slow death. This continues despite calls from UN bodies for his immediate release and urgent medical treatment. It urges the UNHRC to pressure Bahrain to end Dr. A. Singaz's medical neglect and ensure he receives the necessary care, including for his post-polio syndrome.

According to **Rajasthan Sangram Kalyan Sansthan**, this annual debate at the UNHRC is vital for ensuring that PwD are not excluded from the digital world and are given equal access to technology. India has made remarkable progress in advancing the rights of PwD, particularly through its various government schemes and initiatives. The National Policy for PwD and the Rights of PwD Act 2016 has set a framework for greater accessibility and inclusion. The Government has launched programmes like the Digital India Initiative, which aims to make technology more accessible to PwD through assistive technology and accessibility features. Furthermore, efforts to counter cyberbullying and ensure digital safety for PwD are gaining momentum. Rajasthan Sangram Kalyan Sansthan has been at the forefront of supporting the digital and technological inclusion of PwD. Its work includes providing assistive technology training, promoting digital literacy, and advocating for digital platforms to be more inclusive. It appeals to the UNHRC to continue its important work in this field, ensuring that efforts to enhance digital inclusion and address cyberbullying are further strengthened, empowering PwD worldwide.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

27 State Delegations

- Including 1 high-level dignitary

1 Inter-Governmental Organization



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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4 National Human Rights Institutions

7 Non-Governmental Organizations