



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Canada*

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the Combined second and third periodic reports of Canada at its 767th and 769th meetings, held on March 10 and 11, 2025. It adopted the following concluding observations at its 779th meeting, held on March 18, 2025.
2. The Committee welcomes the Combined second and third periodic reports of Canada, which was prepared in accordance with the Committee's reporting guidelines and in response to its list of issues prior to reporting, and the additional information submitted by the State party.
3. The Committee appreciates the constructive dialogue held with the State Party's delegation, which included representatives of the relevant government ministries. The Committee also expresses its appreciation for the active participation of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, in its capacity as the national human rights institution and independent monitoring mechanism pursuant to article 33 (2) of the Convention.

II. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party to implement the Convention, following the recommendations contained in its concluding observations on the initial report of the State party in 2017. It notes with appreciation the ratification, in 2023, of the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No.190) of the International Labour Organization and, in 2018, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the adoption and establishment of the following:
 - (a) The National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act, in 2024;
 - (b) The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, in 2021, and its corresponding action plan;
 - (c) The Act Respecting Equal Access to Employment in Public Bodies, which prohibits discrimination against employees and potential employees with disabilities, in 2020;
 - (d) The Accessible Canada Act, in 2019;
 - (e) The Poverty Reduction Act in 2019;
 - (f) The National Housing Strategy Act, in 2019;

* Adopted by the Committee at its thirty-second session (3–21 March 2025).

- (g) The Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth, and families, in 2019;
- (h) Amendments to the Canada Business Corporations Act, to require federally incorporated corporations to disclose diversity information to their shareholders, including representation of persons with disabilities on their boards of directors and senior management teams, in 2018;
- (i) Amendments to the Elections Modernization Act on financial incentives for parties and candidates to accommodate persons with disabilities during an election period, in 2018;
- (j) The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Systemic Ableism, in 2022;
- (k) The Ministerial Advisory Board on Dementia, in 2018;
- (l) The employment Strategy for Canadians with Disabilities, in 2024;
- (m) The National Autism Strategy in 2024;
- (n) The federal strategy “It’s Time: Canada’s Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence” in 2017;
- (o) The First Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2018;
- (p) The COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group (CDAG) in April 2020 to put a disability lens on the Government’s emergency response, as well as the establishment of similar groups in British Columbia and Quebec;
- (q) The Final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which sets out 231 calls for justice, in 2019; and the 2021 National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People;
- (r) The inclusion of measures for students with disabilities in the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program
- (s) The National Housing Strategy, in 2017;
- (t) The endorsement of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action in 2017.

III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1–4)

5. The Committee reiterates its concern about the State party’s interpretative declaration under article 12 and conditional reservation under article 12(4) [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, para 7]. The right to equal recognition before the law is of foundational importance for the exercise of all rights guaranteed by the Convention. Reservations seriously curtailing this right may well be deemed against the object and purpose of the Convention.

6. **Recalling its past Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, para. 8), the Committee invites the State party to withdraw its declaration under article 12 and reservation to article 12 (4) of the Convention.**

7. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Significant disparities in the implementation of the Convention across jurisdictions and branches of government in the State Party, resulting in the highly unequal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) The rudimentary incorporation of the Convention into domestic law, and its limited normative significance as a mere interpretative tool;

(c) The lack of close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including with Black and other

racialised persons with disabilities, First Nations, Inuit and Métis persons with disabilities, non-status, and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities.

8. **Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State Party take all necessary measures to ensure full implementation of the Convention on the Federal level as well as in all provinces and territories and that:**

(a) **In close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including Indigenous persons with disabilities and Black and other racialised persons with disabilities, establish legally defined mechanisms ensuring compliance with the Convention by all provinces and territories, and condition fiscal transfers from the Federal level to provinces and territories on their adherence to the Convention;**

(b) **Require that statutes and regulations in all jurisdictions be interpreted in a manner consistent with the Convention and ensure that the principles and standards of the Convention underpin the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and its Action Plan while respecting self-determination, sovereignty, and culture, including for non-status and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Develop legally entrenched mechanisms for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including with Indigenous persons with disabilities, Black and other racialized persons with disabilities, on the Federal level and in the provinces and territories.**

B. Specific rights (arts. 5–30)

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

9. **The Committee notes with concern the persistent discrimination against persons with disabilities, in particular, that Indigenous persons with disabilities experience greater socioeconomic marginalization including higher rates of unemployment, mental health-related detentions and forced treatment, and inadequate access to healthcare; persistent ableism against 2SLGBTQI+ persons with disabilities, particularly in healthcare; high rates of discrimination against Black and racialized persons with disabilities; discrimination and stigma against persons with dementia, Multiple Chemical Sensitivities and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder; exclusion of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, particularly from public spaces, recreational activities, and cultural events; and persistent discriminatory attitudes towards people with Down Syndrome;**

10. **The Committee recalls its general comment No.6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:**

(a) **Conduct a comprehensive and intersectional study on disability discrimination cases across all jurisdictions and branches of government, identifying trends and root causes, and develop a plan to address them, with clear timelines, targets, and indicators of progress;**

(b) **Develop intersectional, comprehensive, and cross-sectoral strategies and statistics to implement the right to equality and non-discrimination, for persons with disabilities, including Indigenous persons with disabilities, 2SLGBTQI+ persons with disabilities, Black and racialized persons with disabilities, persons with dementia, Multiple Chemical Sensitivities and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with Down Syndrome on the**

Federal level and in the provinces and territories, and in all branches of government, and remedy the effects of colonialism within Indigenous communities.

Women with disabilities (art. 6)

11. The Committee notes with concern that women with disabilities:

(a) Experience disproportionate rates of poverty, barriers to accessible housing, homelessness, and lack of access to financial resources, particularly First Nations, Inuit and Métis women with disabilities, and off-reserve and non-status Indigenous women with disabilities;

(b) Are insufficiently represented in political, advocacy, and leadership positions in public life, private enterprises, and medium and small businesses.

12. **The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities through their representative organisations:**

(a) **Mainstream gender and disability into all poverty and homelessness laws, policies, and strategies, including the Poverty Reduction Act and the National Housing Strategy, and ensure that they address the requirements of women with disabilities, including women with disabilities and intersecting identities;**

(b) **Take concrete action to achieve the participation and representation of women with disabilities in decision-making positions in all areas of political and public life, private enterprises, and medium and small businesses, on an equal basis with others.**

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The legal and institutional frameworks for children do not mainstream disability, and that significant disparities in policies and across federal, provincial, and territorial levels hinder the effective protection of their rights;

(b) Programmes of the State Party on daycare and early childhood programs do not sufficiently address the requirements of children with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and of parents with disabilities;

(c) Policies for children with disabilities do not incorporate the requirements, experiences, and cultural contexts of Indigenous children with disabilities and Black and other racialised children with disabilities, and that a lack of support for their families frequently forces their children to be placed into residential care or long-term care institutions;

(d) The Children's Rights Impact Assessment does not mainstream disability;

(e) The State Party lacks procedures and supports for children with disabilities to freely express their requirements and views on all matters affecting them, and for them to be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity;

(f) Eligible supports available to First Nations children with disabilities under Jordan's Principle have been restricted, the planned defunding of the Inuit Child First Initiative and lack of an equivalent measure for the provision of supports for Métis children with disabilities.

14. **Recalling its past Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, paras. 17 and 18) and its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of children with disabilities:**

(a) **Mainstream the rights of children with disabilities into all its laws, public policies, action plans and strategies, at all levels and branches of government, including in Bill C-35 on early learning and childcare in Canada, and develop disaggregated data and indicators to measure the effective protection of the rights of children with disabilities guaranteed by the Convention;**

(b) **Allocate sufficient human, technical and financial support to ensure that children with disabilities have access to daycare and early childhood programs, on an equal basis with other children, and provide support to caregivers and early learning centres to stimulate and teach children with disabilities, including children with disabilities requiring more intensive support, such as children with multiple disabilities or who are deafblind;**

(c) **Ensure that all policies and programs affecting Indigenous and Black and other racialised children with disabilities are fully responsive to their requirements, experiences, and cultural context;**

(d) **Amend the Children’s Rights Impact Assessment to mainstream disability and render the assessments reached with this tool publicly accessible;**

(e) **Establish accessible mechanisms for children with disabilities to freely express their requirements and views in all matters affecting them, and ensure that they are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity in all legislative and administrative processes, on the Federal level and in the provinces and territories;**

(f) **Review decisions to restrict eligible supports under Jordan’s Principle, and reconsider defunding the Inuit Child First Initiative, ensure that First Nations and Inuit children with disabilities receive adequate and timely supports and establish an equivalent program for Métis children with disabilities.**

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Information about ableism and lack of intersectionality in awareness-raising initiatives, and their failure to address all rights covered in the Convention, as well as limited knowledge of the rights of persons with disabilities in many public and private entities;

(b) Negative perceptions and stereotypes in the State Party and society about persons with Down syndrome and other impairments, which results in a lack of accurate information being given to expectant parents in relation to prenatal screening programs, resulting in high rates of pregnancy termination.

16. **Recalling its past Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, paras. 19 and 20), the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

(a) **Review, amend and adapt awareness-raising programmes to address stigma and ableism against persons with disabilities, and ensure that all related materials are accessible to all persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Ensure that prospective parents undergoing prenatal screening are provided with comprehensive information and non-directive counselling that does not promote stereotypes about persons with disabilities, including persons with Down syndrome, or values associated with a medical model of disability.**

Accessibility (art. 9)

17. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the Accessible Canada Act does not provide for the duty to accommodate as a legal obligation, its accountability mechanisms for non-compliance are ineffective and persistent delays in its implementation;

(b) The lack of implementation of the accessibility obligations and rights enshrined by the Convention in many provinces and territories;

(c) The lack of close consultation and active involvement of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons with disabilities, off-reserve and non-status Indigenous persons with disabilities in the implementation of accessibility requirements;

(d) The insufficient availability of experts in universal design, reasonable accommodation and accessibility in public administration and the private sector;

(e) The scarce information on the implementation of the Accessible Procurement Resource Centre and how it has served to ensure accessibility across the State party;

(f) The lack of involvement of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development, implementation and monitoring of accessibility.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Amend the Accessible Canada Act and other domestic laws to explicitly incorporate the duty to accommodate as a legal obligation, with accountability mechanisms for non-compliance, and set a timeline for the issuance of regulations and their implementation, with clear indicators of progress;

(b) Ensure that all provinces and territories enact and implement accessibility legislation in conformity with the Convention;

(c) Ensure the Accessible Canada Act is applicable to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis territories, and provide the necessary support to implement the Act in their territories;

(d) Develop educational and training programmes on universal design, reasonable accommodation, and accessibility to ensure the further development of expertise in government and in the private sector on these matters;

(e) Ensure information on the performance and results of the Accessible Procurement Resource Centre publicly available and how it has served to ensure accessibility;

(f) Ensure that persons with disabilities and children with disabilities, are involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of universal design, reasonable accommodation, and accessibility policies, as well as in the evaluation of its effectiveness.

Right to Life (art. 10)

19. The Committee is extremely concerned about the 2021 amendments to the State Party's Criminal Code through Bill C-7 that expanded the eligibility criteria for obtaining Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), known as "Track 2" MAiD by removing the 'foreseeable death' criteria. The Committee recalls that similar concerns about Track 2 MAiD have been addressed directly to the State Party by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and during the Universal Periodic Review. The Committee further notes that the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons have stated that disability is not a reason to endorse medical assistance in dying. The Committee also notes with concern that:

(a) The federal government did not challenge the Quebec Truchon decision which fundamentally changes the whole premise of medical assistance in dying when natural death is reasonably foreseeable to a new program that establishes medically assisted dying for persons with disabilities based on negative, ableist perceptions of the quality and value of the life of persons with disabilities, including that 'suffering' is intrinsic to disability rather than the fact that inequality and discrimination cause and compound 'suffering' for persons with disabilities;

(b) The concept of ‘choice’ creates a false dichotomy by setting up the premise that if persons with disabilities are suffering, it is valid for the State Party to enable their death, with safeguards not guaranteeing the provision of support, and ableist assumptions deemphasising the myriad of support options for persons with disabilities to live dignified lives, and the systemic failures of the State Party to address the social determinants of health and well-being, such as poverty alleviation, access to healthcare, accessible housing, prevention of homelessness, prevention of gender-based violence, the provision of community-based mental health supports and employment supports;

(c) Evidence from the Ontario Office of the Chief Coroner and federal government data indicating that Track 2 MAiD is disproportionately accessed by women with disabilities and persons with disabilities in marginalised situations, and there is an upward trajectory of persons with disabilities killed through Track 2 MAiD;

(d) The expansion of Track 2 MAiD in 2027 to persons whose “sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness” and the proposed expansion of MAiD to include “mature minors” and advance requests for MAiD;

(e) The inadequate consultation process with Indigenous Peoples including non-status and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities in relation to MAiD;

(f) The absence of a federal independent oversight mechanism to monitor, regulate and handle complaints in relation to MAiD.

20. To ensure the right to life for persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Repeal Track 2 Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), including the 2027 commencement of Track 2 MAiD for persons whose “sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness”;

(b) Not support proposals for the expansion of MAiD to include “mature minors” and advance requests;

(c) Significantly invest and implement comprehensive measures, at federal, provincial, and territorial levels to ensure the systemic failures in relation to the social determinants of health and well-being are addressed, such as poverty alleviation, access to healthcare, accessible housing, prevention of homelessness, prevention of gender-based violence, the provision of community-based mental health supports, care services at home and personal assistance, and employment supports;

(d) Strengthen distinctions-based, community-led consultation processes with Indigenous Peoples, including non-status and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities, respecting the principle of self-determination;

(e) Establish and resource a federal independent oversight mechanism to monitor, regulate and handle complaints in relation to MAiD.

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

21. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Policies and action plans to address situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including in relation to climate change, the opioid crisis, disaster risk reduction and emergency management do not provide extensive guidance and concrete measures for the protection and safety of persons with disabilities, and that there are barriers to emergency responses, access to emergency management information and early warning systems;

(b) First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, and Black and other racialized communities experience environmental racism, such as polluting industries and hazards, which have detrimental health impacts causing or exacerbating impairment and secondary impairments, including life-threatening illnesses.

22. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

in Humanitarian Action, the Charter of Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, and the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Review federal, provincial, and territorial plans and policies to ensure that preparation and response measures to address situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including climate change, environmental action, the opioid crisis, public health, and other emergencies are disability inclusive, and establish protocols to ensure the provision of accessible information, communications and early warning systems, and training for public bodies and emergency service staff in these protocols;

(b) Ensure that the implementation of the 2024 National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act is disability inclusive and addresses the intersection between environmental racism and ableism.

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence of substitute decision-making regimes across all jurisdictions, and the lack of national leadership to promote and advance well-established supported decision-making models throughout Canada;

(b) The British Columbia Mental Health Act that explicitly overrides mental health care consent and supported decision-making rights through the “deemed consent” provisions that go beyond the terms of the State Party interpretative declaration and conditional reservation under article 12;

(c) The systemic flaws within the “designated representative” mechanism under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, including a lack of proper assessment in the appointment of representatives, the broad and contested scope of their role, inadequate training, and competence to support persons with disabilities and their powers to make substitute decisions.

24. **Recalling its prior Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1 paras. 27 and 28) and its General Comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:**

(a) Take leadership in collaborating with provincial and territorial governments to eliminate substitute decision-making by creating and implementing a nationally consistent framework for supported decision-making;

(b) Repeal all legislation, including the British Columbia Mental Health Act, that overrides personal, free, and informed consent and supported decision-making rights and ensure that federal, provincial, and territorial mental health frameworks respect the legal capacity of persons with disabilities;

(c) Address the systemic flaws within the “designated representative” mechanism under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act by establishing mandatory policies and procedures, training, and compliance measures to ensure it acts as a supported decision-making mechanism based on the will and preference of persons with disabilities and respects the universal standard of legal capacity.

Access to justice (art. 13)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Jurisdictional differences in eligibility and the issues covered by legal aid;

(b) Regional inconsistencies in protocols and processes for accessing procedural and age-appropriate accommodation in the justice system, the over-reliance on medical documentation to request procedural accommodations and disclosure of private medical

records in decisions and, insufficient sign language interpretation in courts, tribunals, and police interactions;

(c) Significant delays and backlogs in resolving disability discrimination complaints in many human rights tribunals.

26. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities 2020, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Establish principles and guidelines in funding agreements with provincial and territorial governments to ensure broad legal aid eligibility criteria, expand the issues covered, and that legal aid services are nationally consistent;

(b) Develop nationally consistent protocols and guidelines for the request and provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings, including to prevent over-reliance on medical documentation, to ensure respect for privacy and in relation to the provision of sign language interpretation in courts, tribunals, and police interactions;

(c) Increase resourcing to human rights tribunals in order to expedite disability discrimination complaints and eliminate backlogs.

Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Mental health and substance use treatment legislative and policy frameworks that allow for involuntary detention and treatment, increased support for Drug Treatment Courts, the increase in involuntary hospitalisation, and release and access to housing and services conditional on community treatment orders;

(b) Over-policing and complex court practices that adversely impact and effectively criminalise Indigenous, Black and racialised groups, homeless persons with disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities leading to frequent contact with the criminal justice system and incarceration;

(c) Over representation of persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system and prisons, in particular Indigenous women with disabilities, Black and other marginalised persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with FASD;

(d) The lack of culturally appropriate, gender and age specific individualised supports, accessible infrastructure and disability-related supports, and health services, including mental health and drug treatment support options within prisons;

(e) The indefinite detention in outpatient community treatment or mental health facilities, and the lack of access to procedural guarantees for persons with disabilities who are declared 'unfit to stand trial' or not criminally responsible.

28. Recalling its Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, annex), the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Repeal federal, provincial, and territorial mental health and substance use treatment laws and policies allowing for involuntary detention and treatment, including under the auspices of Drug Treatment Courts and through community treatment orders;

(b) Invest in rights-based, culturally appropriate voluntary, community-based mental health and substance use supports and treatment options, including peer-led options; ensure regulatory oversight and human rights monitoring, and ensure harm reduction and safe supply programs that respond to the intersecting identities of people who use drugs;

(c) **Take all legislative, policy, judicial and administrative measures to address the over-representation of persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system and prisons, including by addressing the social determinants of incarceration, such as poverty, ableism, racial injustice, and gender inequality, and by reforming policing practices and complex court processes;**

(d) **Implement laws and policies to ensure that prisoners with disabilities receive culturally appropriate, gender and age specific individualised supports, accessible infrastructure and disability-related supports, and health services, including mental health and drug treatment support options;**

(e) **Amend and/or repeal legislation that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, allowing for harsher measures against persons with disabilities than against defendants convicted of the same crimes, such as indefinite detention, and guarantee their access to justice on an equal basis with others throughout judicial proceedings.**

Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 15)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, despite commitments made by the State Party at its fourth cycle Universal Periodic Review;

(b) Structured Intervention Units (SIUs) that perpetuate solitary confinement conditions, disproportionately affecting prisoners with psychosocial disabilities who are predominantly Indigenous, Black and from other racialized groups, the wide discretion of Correctional Service Canada (CSC) in the use of SIUs, and ongoing concerns from the SIU Implementation Advisory Panel and the Office of the Correctional Investigator over many years without substantive improvements;

(c) The significantly high prevalence of women with psychosocial disabilities, in particular Indigenous women with psychosocial disabilities, in women's prisons who are placed in maximum security and highly restrictive environments in higher rates, often leading to chronic self-injurious or suicidal behaviour;

(d) The prevalence of seclusion, restraint and restrictive practices in residential institutions, psychiatric institutions, hospitals, prisons, and schools; the focus on authorisation rather than elimination in seclusion and restraint policies and guidelines; and the provisions in the British Columbia Mental Health Act that authorise staff to discipline involuntary mental health patients;

(e) The absence of an independent monitoring and oversight mechanism for the mental health system

30. **The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:**

(a) **Accelerate efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to designate a disability inclusive and accessible National Preventive Mechanism to ensure independent oversight and monitoring of all places of detention;**

(b) **Address the concerns and implement the recommendations of the SIU Implementation Advisory Panel and the Office of the Correctional Investigator, and ensure the provision of culturally appropriate, gender and age specific mental health supports within correctional facilities;**

(c) **Address the pre-conditions that result in the high prevalence of women with psychosocial disabilities, in particular Indigenous women with psychosocial disabilities, being placed in maximum security and highly restrictive environments in prisons;**

(d) Establish a nationally consistent legislative and policy framework for the elimination, of seclusion, restraint and restrictive practices in residential institutions, psychiatric institutions, hospitals, prisons, and schools and repeal the provisions in the BC Mental Health Act that authorize staff to discipline involuntary mental health patients;

(e) Designate an independent monitoring and oversight mechanisms for the mental health system based on the principles and standards of the Convention.

Freedom from exploitation, violence, and abuse (art. 16)

31. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, particularly Indigenous women and girls with disabilities, in both family and institutional settings, and the lack of accessible women's shelters and services for victim-survivors with disabilities of gender-based violence.

32. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of women with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

(a) Ensure that issues and concerns of women and girls with disabilities are integral to the implementation of the Final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;

(b) Ensure that audits of accessibility of shelters are conducted regularly as part of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence and result in comprehensive measures to address gaps in accessible and culturally appropriate shelters and services for victim-survivors with disabilities of gender-based violence.

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

33. The Committee is concerned about the historical and ongoing practice of forced and coerced sterilization of persons with disabilities, including Indigenous, Black and racialised women and girls with disabilities, intersex children, and institutionalised persons.

34. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Take all legislative, policy and administrative measures to prohibit sterilisation procedures and contraceptive measures performed on persons with disabilities without their free, informed and personal consent;

(b) Urgently implement the recommendations of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights to end forced or coerced sterilisation and ensure redress, justice, and support for survivors.

Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)

35. The Committee is concerned that asylum-seekers and refugees with disabilities, in particular those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are more likely to be in immigration detention, can be detained in correctional facilities and subjected to solitary confinement if they express suicidal ideation or based on psychosocial disabilities, and are subjected to onerous release conditions in the community, such as requirements to enrol in residential treatment facilities where treatment and confinement is non-consensual.

36. The Committee recommends that the State Party end the use of immigration detention by increasing community-based, independent alternatives that provide access to holistic supports, such as housing, healthcare, mental health services, legal representation, disability-related supports, and children's services.

37. The Committee is concerned that section 38(1)(c) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act can preclude persons with disabilities, including persons living with HIV from obtaining permanent or temporary residency status.

38. The Committee recommends that the State Party repeal section 38(1)(c) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

39. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Deinstitutionalisation efforts are inconsistent and slow with many persons with disabilities forced to live in institutions, such as nursing homes, group homes, specialised long term care facilities and other institutions because they are unable to obtain support;

(b) Many Indigenous children and adults with disabilities must leave their communities and cultural connections to obtain accessible housing and appropriate support;

(c) Funding and programs for support for community living have long wait lists, require co-payments and are not portable throughout Canada.

40. **Recalling its General Comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:**

(a) Implement a coordinated deinstitutionalisation strategy across federal, provincial, and territorial governments with timelines and targets, and applicable across all institutional settings, such as nursing homes, group homes, specialised long-term care facilities and psychiatric institutions;

(b) Establish comprehensive distinctions-based Indigenous policies and plans to urgently address the lack of accessible housing and community supports within Indigenous communities and for non-status and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities;

(c) Develop a nationally consistent, rights-based legislative and policy framework for the provision of community-based supports and services at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels, including accessible housing, home support and personal assistance that respects self-direction and individual control, and that removes wait lists and co-payments for self-managed funding programs and allow for portability throughout the State Party.

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)

41. The Committee notes that some progress has been made by recognizing American Sign Language, Quebec Sign Language, and Indigenous sign languages as the primary languages for communication by deaf persons in the Accessible Canada Act. However, it is concerned about:

(a) sign language not being recognized as an official language (American Sign Language, Quebec Sign Language, and Indigenous sign languages);

(b) Persistent communication barriers and disparities in access to information and technology for persons with disabilities across jurisdictions, the limited nationwide reach of the Video Relay Service and the insufficient compliance with the policy on Communications policy and Federal Identity;

(c) The lack of comprehensive measures to ensure that all information is available in modes and formats accessible for blind persons, deafblind persons, persons with vision impairment and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and the insufficient implementation of closed captioning by Canadian English and French language broadcasters;

(d) The shortage of sign language interpreters, particularly in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis territories, as well as disparities in training and accreditation programmes throughout provinces and territories.

42. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities including Indigenous persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:**

(a) Recognize sign language as an official language, including American Sign Language, Quebec Sign Language, and Indigenous sign languages;

(b) Exercise federal leadership to ensure equal access to information for persons with disabilities throughout its territory and in First Nations, Inuit and Métis territories, nationwide access to Video Relay Service for all persons who are deaf and the implementation of the Communications and Federal Identity policy;

(c) Implement laws and policies to ensure the accessibility of information, communications, including digital technology and public services for the diversity of persons with disabilities in all provinces and territories, including in formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles, and ensure that all programmes aired by English and French broadcasters are closed captioned for persons who are deaf and hard-of-hearing;

(d) Allocate sufficient funding and resources to develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters, including in Indigenous sign languages.

Respect for privacy (article 22)

43. The Committee is concerned about insufficient information on measures to protect the right to privacy of persons with disabilities, including migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities in migration and cross-border processing of personal data.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, establish privacy protection procedures and develop policies to guarantee that migration and cross-border processing of personal data of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities respects their right to privacy.

Respect for home and the family (article 23)

45. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The inconsistencies in federal, provincial and territorial legislation on the legal capacity of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to marry and adopt children, as well as discrepancies in judicial interpretation on the legal capacity of persons with psychosocial disabilities to marry and divorce;

(b) The insufficient support to children with disabilities and their families, and to parents with disabilities, to carry out their parental responsibilities, especially in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis territories.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Recognise the legal capacity of persons with disabilities to ensure their right to marry, divorce, adopt and raise children;

(b) Adopt policy measures, to ensure adequate support to children with disabilities and their families, to parents with disabilities and to prevent separation of children from their families on the basis of disability of either the child or one or both of their parents, including in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis territories.

Education (article 24)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence of segregated educational systems, inconsistent access to inclusive education across provinces and territories, the lack of culturally-appropriate inclusive education for Indigenous persons with disabilities, the insufficient funding and qualified personnel for educational services for persons with disabilities, as well as the lack of adequate pedagogical approaches to guarantee inclusive education;

(b) Unequal access to post-secondary education for persons with disabilities, with official numbers indicating that only 19.6 per cent have a university or higher-level degree.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recalling its

Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, para. 44), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations establish a national inclusive education action plan to transition from segregated education to quality, inclusive education, including measures that:

(a) Ensure consistent policies on inclusive education throughout its provinces and territories, track the implementation of inclusive education across provinces and territories, including a database to capture comprehensive data on students with disabilities at the pre-primary, primary, secondary, and tertiary levels;

(b) Ensure that inclusive education policies include and address the distinctions-based needs, experiences, and cultural context of Indigenous persons with disabilities, including regarding their representation in school curricula;

(c) Include strategies to increase the enrolment of persons with disabilities at secondary and tertiary level of education.

Health (article 25)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of comprehensive access to quality healthcare for persons with disabilities, including the inaccessibility of medical infrastructure and equipment;

(b) The limited access to medicines and culturally appropriate health services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis with disabilities, as well as the lack of inclusion of traditional medicine within the health system;

(c) The ableism, prejudice, and stigma amongst health professionals and within the health system in relation to dementia diagnosis, treatment, and support, including for those with early onset dementia and with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(d) Gaps in access to age appropriate and gender specific information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning and access to essential menstrual hygiene products.

50. **Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

(a) Exercise federal leadership to develop a nationally consistent approach to disability inclusive health care for all persons with disabilities across provinces and territories, including policies to ensure the accessibility of medical infrastructure and equipment;

(b) Strengthen measures to ensure culturally appropriate health services within the Action Plan to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, including by ensuring that health policies incorporate and address the needs of Indigenous persons with disabilities, including traditional medicine and health-related practices that are culturally relevant for them;

(c) Develop a comprehensive national action plan to implement the National Dementia Strategy with targets in coordination with the provinces and territories to ensure rights-based training of health professionals and to provide dementia care pathways through the health system, including access to the full range of services and supports and to promote and respect personal autonomy and the right to independent living.

(d) Strengthen policies to provide women and girls with disabilities with age appropriate and gender specific accessible information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning and ensure access to essential menstrual hygiene products.

Habilitation and rehabilitation (article 26)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The medicalised approach to habilitation and rehabilitation programmes and disparities in access and funding complex procedures for assistive technology and devices, including prosthetics, across jurisdictions, and long wait times to receive rehabilitation, including for children with disabilities;

(b) The lack of culturally appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons with disabilities, including off-reserve and non-status Indigenous persons with disabilities.

52. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention, and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Work with provinces and territories to ensure national consistency in access and funding for habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes, and technology, with a focus on living independently and being included in the community and to streamline procedures for accessing assistive and prosthetic devices, to ensure access assessments address the individual needs of persons with disabilities and to reduce wait times, in particular for children with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen distinctions-based measures to ensure culturally appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation within the Action Plan to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Work and employment (article 27)

53. The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Employment Strategy for Canadians with Disabilities, the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training program, the Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy, the Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program, the Youth Employment and Skills and Strategy, Skills for Success, and the Disability Inclusion Business Council. However, it notes with concern:

(a) That despite legal protections and existing policies, persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, keep encountering systemic barriers to employment and in the workplace, and they face higher unemployment rates compared to their non-disabled counterparts, as well as disparities across the provinces and territories regarding policies on work and employment for persons with disabilities;

(b) The lack of nationally consistent, longitudinal measurable outcomes aimed at guaranteeing the right to work and employment of persons with disabilities, including disaggregated data, on persons with disabilities employed in the public and private sectors;

(c) The lack of comprehensive policies to address the situation of persons with work-acquired disabilities and to counter societal stigma on the long-term use of employment injury benefits;

(d) The absence of a centralized disability fund to assist small and micro businesses in providing reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities;

(e) The continued use of sheltered workshops to employ persons with disabilities.

54. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Exercise federal leadership to identify systemic barriers to employment for persons with disabilities and ensure national consistency in all work and employment policies and programs across jurisdictions;

(b) Generate specific indicators to measure progress in the implementation of programs on employment for persons with disabilities across provinces and territories

and in both public and private sectors and strengthen disaggregated data collection measures;

(c) **Develop comprehensive measures to address the situation of people with work-acquired disabilities, and carry out awareness-raising campaigns to counter societal stigma on the long-term use of employment injury benefits;**

(d) **Establish a centralized fund to assist small and micro businesses to provide reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities;**

(e) **Develop a strategy with specific timelines and measurable outcomes to transition from segregated employment, such as sheltered workshops, to employment that is open, inclusive, and accessible to persons with disabilities.**

Adequate standard of living (article 28)

55. The Committee notes positively the issuance of the Canada Disability Benefit Act, the Poverty Reduction Act, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and the National Housing Strategy. However, it remains concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, are more likely to experience homelessness and face inadequate living conditions or high housing costs and being disproportionately affected by the housing crisis in the State Party;

(b) The laws and policies on social entitlements, tax exemptions, housing and poverty strategies across jurisdictions are not disability inclusive;

(c) The disability benefit for Canadians with disabilities is woefully inadequate to address the living expenses of persons with disabilities, and the procedures to access social entitlements related to disability benefits and tax benefits are bureaucratic, complicated, and present disparities leading to unequal coverage;

(d) The current system of income-testing requirements for disability allowances in British Columbia, and similar practices in Alberta and Ontario, which affect the autonomy, life choices and right to family of persons with disabilities, by reducing the amount received if they have a full-time job, live with a partner or spouse, join a rehabilitation facility for treatment, or travel outside of the province.

56. **Recalling links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

(a) **Ensure that the issues and concerns of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities are included in the National Housing Strategy;**

(b) **Ensure that all laws and policies on social entitlements, tax exemptions, housing and poverty strategies across jurisdictions are disability inclusive;**

(c) **Exercise federal leadership to ensure that all disability entitlements, including those stemming from the Canada Disability Benefit Act support an adequate standard of living and alleviate poverty for persons with disabilities, as well as streamline procedures for accessing entitlements and tax benefits across jurisdictions;**

(d) **Review the income-testing requirements for disability allowances in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario to ensure that they do not discriminate against persons with disabilities and allow them to exercise their autonomy, life choices and right to family on an equal basis with others.**

Participation in political and public life (article 29)

57. The Committee commends the State Party on its policies on voting accessibility for persons with disabilities. However, it is concerned about:

(a) Disparities in election processes across jurisdictions that impact the accessibility for persons with disabilities, including for blind persons and persons with vision

impairment, insufficient sign language interpreters for deaf persons, lack of alternative methods of voting and registering to vote and lack of procedures to ensure the right to vote for persons of disabilities in institutions, including psychiatric facilities and prisons;

(b) The lack of procedures to ensure a secret ballot for persons with disabilities;

(c) Laws that deny legal capacity that prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their right to vote, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

58. The lack of education and capacity building measures to ensure persons with disabilities are aware of their right to vote and participate in politics and public life, and measures to address the underrepresentation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, including in decision-making positions at federal, provincial, and territorial level.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) **Exercise federal leadership to ensure national consistency in the accessibility of election processes for persons with disabilities, including by ensuring accessible election materials and information and establishing procedures to ensure that persons in institutions can exercise their right vote;**

(b) **Develop processes and procedures to ensure that persons with disabilities can cast a secret ballot;**

(c) **Repeal laws that deny legal capacity and prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their right to vote;**

(d) **Establish education and capacity building programmes on voting rights and participation in public and political life for persons with disabilities, as well as specific policies to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life, including by being politically active, standing for elections, and participating in decision-making fora.**

C. Specific obligations (arts. 31–33)

Statistics and data collection, art. 31.

60. The Committee notes that the State Party implements the short set of questions of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, as well as its active participation in high-level data collection on the status of the National Dementia Strategy through the WHO Global Dementia Observatory. However, it remains concerned that:

(a) The State party's existing surveys, including those feeding the Indicators for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, are not based on the human rights model of the Convention and do not mainstream disability, hindering the gathering of comprehensive and intersectional information on persons with disabilities, and that the Canadian Survey on Disability does not gather information about children with disabilities under 15 years of age, even when the Canadian Health Survey for Children and Youth collects disability information for those 1 to 14 years of age;

(b) The insufficient participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design and monitoring of data collection for the effective implementation of the Convention.

61. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) **Conduct a review of its statistics and data collection tools at federal, provincial, and territorial levels, in order to mainstream disability and intersectionality in information gathering systems, including in the Disaggregated Data Action Plan;**

(b) **Develop and improve the design and monitoring of data collection on compliance with the Convention at the Federal, provincial, and territorial levels.**

International cooperation, art. 32.

62. The Committee commends the State Party on devoting between 6-10% of its international development assistance to projects whose main focus is the rights of persons with disabilities, and on the use of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) disability policy marker to monitor inclusivity in development assistance. However, it remains concerned that despite assurances that the State Party's arms exports and control regime policies are compliant with international and humanitarian law, the exemption of certain export permits of items, parts, and components shipped to the United States to integrate into larger weapons systems, which are then exported to other countries, may facilitate the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities and jeopardizes their access to humanitarian assistance.

63. **Recognizing the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of 9 January 2025 on the impact of arms transfers on human rights (A/HRC/58/41), the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) Ensure that all its arms exports and control regime policies are compliant with the State Party's obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty, International Humanitarian Law, the Convention, and other international human rights instruments, and incorporate into its domestic legislation mandatory human rights due diligence legislation for all arms exports;

(b) Conduct a comprehensive analysis of its current policy on exports of arms, items, parts, and components to identify and cease any Canadian military exports used to facilitate or commit – through the export of items to other countries, including to the United States of America, for their integration into larger weapons systems, indirect exports, or re-exports – grave human rights violations against persons with disabilities;

(c) Implement the 2024 recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on transparency and accountability on arms exports [CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/10 para. 13(d) and 14(c)].

64. The Committee notes with concern that the State party does not closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design, approval and tracking of development and humanitarian projects in international cooperation.

65. **The Committee recommends that the State Party develop mechanisms to ensure the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in all its humanitarian, reconstruction, development and post-conflict projects with international, regional, and local partners.**

National implementation and monitoring, art. 33

66. The Committee welcomes the appointment of the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) as the independent body responsible for monitoring the Government's implementation of the Convention pursuant to article 33 (2) and (3) and commends the CHRC for its important contributions in this capacity. It also notes the designation of the Office for Disability Issues as the federal focal point on disability, as provided for by article 33 (1). It is nevertheless concerned about:

(a) The lack of a permanent and specialized intergovernmental mechanism to coordinate the effective implementation of the Convention in the State party across jurisdictions, and the lack of clarity of how existing mechanisms, such as the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Forum of Deputy Ministers Responsible for Social Services and the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up on human rights, mainstream disability;

(b) The designated funding of the CHRC to carry out its mandate as an independent mechanism to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention came to an end in March 2024, confining CHRC's monitoring activities to a few selected rights under the Convention, and information provided by the State Party during the constructive dialogue that further funding is contingent upon a request by the CHRC;

(c) The lack of information on the performance of the federal focal point on disability.

67. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Establish an intergovernmental mechanism to coordinate the effective implementation of the Convention on the Federal level and in the provinces and territories, publicly report on progress, and ensure that existing mechanisms of intergovernmental cooperation mainstream disability;**

(b) **Provide continuing funding of the CHRC, sufficient for the promotion, protection, and monitoring of the implementation of all rights under the Convention, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations;**

(c) **Ensure effective functioning of the federal focal point in all areas of government.**

IV. Follow-up

Dissemination of information

68. **The Committee emphasizes the importance of all the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. The Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 8, on general obligations, 20, on the right to life, and 56, on adequate standard of living for urgent implementation.**

69. **The Committee requests the State party to implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Government and Parliament, officials in relevant ministries and local authorities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies.**

70. **The Committee strongly encourages the State party to involve civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its periodic report.**

71. **The Committee requests the State party to disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, and to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in national and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats, including Easy Read, and to make them available on the government website on human rights.**

Next periodic report

72. **The Committee will establish and communicate the exact due date of the combined periodic reports of the State party in line with a future clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States parties (see A/RES/79/165, para. 6) and following the adoption of a list of issues and questions prior to reporting for the State party. The combined periodic reports should cover the entire period up to the time of its submission.**