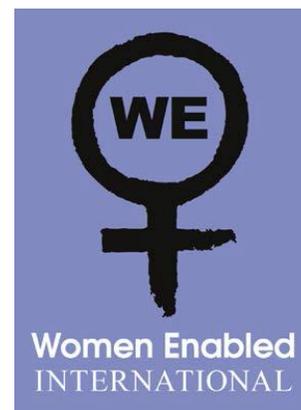


**HANDICAP  
INTERNATIONAL**



**DISABILITY LAW AND POLICY PROGRAM**  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

**Making  
it Work**



**WHERE ARE THE GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES:  
AN ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTRY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO  
THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 59**

**MARCH 13, 2015**

PREPARED BY  
HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL – MAKING IT WORK  
WOMEN ENABLED INTERNATIONAL  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW DISABILITY LAW AND POLICY PROGRAM

This report was prepared for Handicap International by Stephanie Ortoleva, President, Women Enabled International, Professor Arlene Kanter, Director of the Syracuse University College of Law (SUCOL) Disability Law and Policy Program, and Milanoi Koiyiet, an Open Society Disability Law Fellow who is pursuing her LL.M. at Syracuse University College of Law. We gratefully acknowledge assistance from SUCOL students, Jessica Grimm, Sara McCreary, and Kathryn Wisner, and Mirjahon Turdiev, a Humphrey Fellow at the SU Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. We also wish to thank Natalia Acevedo an Open Society Foundation Disability Law Fellow at McGill University and Marina Mendez a former Open Society Foundation Disability Law Fellow at Cardiff University.

The information and analysis contained in this report reflect the opinions of the authors and not the entities for which they work. Some of the reports that we reviewed, were submitted to the CSW in the authors' native languages. Translations were provided to us by contributors to this report. We take responsibility for all errors, including any translation errors.

*Copies of this report may be retrieved from Handicap International at [http://www.handicap-international.us/disability\\_rights](http://www.handicap-international.us/disability_rights), WomenEnabled International at <http://www.WomenEnabled.org/csw59.htmlqqf>, or from SU COL Disability Law and Policy Program at <http://law.syr.edu/academics/centers-institutes/disability-law-and-policy-program/>*

*For additional paper copies of this report, you may contact Stephanie Ortoleva at [President@WomenEnabled.org](mailto:President@WomenEnabled.org) or Arlene Kanter at [kantera@law.syr.edu](mailto:kantera@law.syr.edu)*

© Syracuse NY  
March 13, 2015

## Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Overview</b>	<b>iv</b>
Colombia	1
Costa Rica	2
Czech Republic	3
Fiji	5
India	6
Ireland	8
Israel	11
Japan	12
Kenya	13
Mexico	16
Russian Federation	18
Rwanda	19
South Africa	21
United Kingdom	24
Uzbekistan	26
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>28</b>

## **OVERVIEW**

**By Stephanie Ortoleva, Esq., President, Women Enabled International**

Beijing+20 is a process to assess how far Member States and other stakeholders have come in implementing the commitments made at the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) in Beijing, China, in 1995. Since 1995, the Commission on the Status of Women has played a central role in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in implementing the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) – the most comprehensive global policy framework to achieve the goals of gender equality, development and peace -- which world leaders have committed to in 12 critical areas of concern. This review is taking place at the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and will be held in March 2015. The United Nations Economic and Social Council called upon all States to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

The critical areas of concern to be addressed by governments in country reports are as follows:

- a. Women and poverty
- b. Education and training of women
- c. Women and health
- d. Violence against women
- e. Women and armed conflict
- f. Women and the economy
- g. Women in power and decision-making
- h. Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women
- i. Human rights of women
- j. Women and the media
- k. Women and the environment
- l. The girl-child

A discussion of these critical areas of concern regarding the rights of women and girls with disabilities, as enumerated in the Beijing Declaration and the CRPD, must have a prominent place in country reports by governments and the CSW 59 Beijing+20 review Process.

The inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the Beijing + 20 review is provided for within the provisions of both the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD),<sup>1</sup> and the Beijing Declaration<sup>2</sup> and Platform for Action, among other international and regional treaties, and including the pronouncements of the CRPD's treaty body.

## INTRODUCTION - VOICES AND VISIONS OF DISABLED WOMEN AT BEIJING

At the Beijing 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women, disabled women were actively engaged, among the non-government organizations. In the video “Disabled Women: Visions and Voices from the 4th World Conference on Women,” those attending tell their stories, describe their experiences and demonstrate their powerful presence engaging with governments and other NGOs.”<sup>3</sup>

## INTRODUCTION – CRPD

Several provisions of the CRPD explicitly address women and girls with disabilities: Article 6: Women with Disabilities, Article 8: Awareness Raising, Article 16: Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse, Article 17: Protecting the integrity of the person, Article 24: Education, Article 25: Health and Article 27: Work and Employment. Of course, all articles of the CRPD are relevant to women and girls especially Article 7: Children, Article 11: Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, Article 12: Equal recognition before the law, Article 13: Access to justice and Article 23: Respect for home and the family.

---

<sup>1</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/611, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/611 (Dec. 6, 2006) available at <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml> [hereinafter CRPD].

<sup>2</sup> Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women, A/CONF/177/20 (Sept. 15, 1995) available at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/declar.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> Disabled Women: Visions and Voices from the 4th World Conference on Women, Wide Vision Productions (1996), <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adfHKfZdvzI> and a transcript is also available on this website.

Due to the vigorous engagement and strong presence of women and girls with disabilities at the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women, several provisions of the Beijing Declaration reference women and girls with disabilities. The Beijing Declaration states:

“Strengthen and encourage the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, paying special attention to ensure non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls with disabilities, including their access to information and services in the field of violence against women, as well as their active participation in and economic contribution to all aspects of society.”<sup>4</sup>

Drawing on the disability-inclusive nature of the original Beijing Declaration itself, the 2000 Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, reviewing the progress of the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, also addressed the concerns and role of women with disabilities by indicating that Governments should:

“Adopt and promote a holistic approach to respond to all forms of violence and abuse against girls and women of all ages, including girls and women with disabilities, as well as vulnerable and marginalized women and girls in order to address their diverse needs, including education, provision of appropriate health care and services and basic social services.”<sup>5</sup>

Furthermore, it also stated that Governments should:

“Design and implement policies and programmes to address fully specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, to ensure their equal access to education at all levels, including technical and vocational training and adequate rehabilitation programmes, health care and services and employment opportunities, to protect and promote their human rights and, where appropriate, to eliminate existing inequalities between women and men with disabilities.”<sup>6</sup>

An understanding of the intersections of the provisions of the CRPD with the provisions of the Beijing Declaration is essential in assessing progress toward achieving the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

---

<sup>4</sup> Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women, Para. 232(p), A/CONF/177/20 (Sept. 15, 1995) available at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/declar.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, para. 69(j), U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3 (Nov. 16, 2000).

<sup>6</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, para. 83(d), U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3 (Nov. 16, 2000).

Beijing Declaration, Para. 32:

Intensify efforts to **ensure equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and girls who face multiple barriers to their empowerment and advancement** because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, or disability, or because they are indigenous people.<sup>7</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Mission Statement, Para. 31 and Para. 225:

**Many women face additional barriers to the enjoyment of their human rights** because of such factors as their race, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, **disability** or socio-economic class or because they are indigenous people, migrants, including women migrant workers, displaced women or refugees. They may also be disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of knowledge and recognition of their human rights as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights.<sup>8</sup>

*These Provisions of the Beijing Declaration are addressed in:*

- CRPD, Art. 6:  
*Women with Disabilities*
  1. States Parties recognize that **women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination**, and in this regard shall take measures to **ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms**.
  2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.<sup>9</sup>
- CRPD, Preamble, Para.(y):  
Convinced that a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities will make a significant contribution to redressing the **profound social disadvantage of persons with disabilities and promote their participation in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres with equal opportunities**, in both developing and developed countries.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 32, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex I (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>8</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 31, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex I (Sept. 15, 1995); World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 225, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>9</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 7 (Jan. 24, 2007).

<sup>10</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 4 (Jan. 24, 2007).

## II. CREATING EQUALITY

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 46:

The Platform for Action recognizes that **women face barriers to full equality** and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or **disability**, because they are indigenous women or because of other status. Many women encounter specific obstacles related to their family status, particularly as single parents; and to their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural, isolated or impoverished areas. Additional barriers also exist for refugee women, other displaced women, including internally displaced women as well as for immigrant women and migrant women, including women migrant workers. Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women.<sup>11</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 232(p):

By Governments:

(p) **Strengthen and encourage the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 30/ paying special attention to ensure non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls with disabilities**, including their access to information and services in the field of violence against women, as well as their activities participation in and economic contribution to all aspects of society;<sup>12</sup>

*This Provision of the Beijing Declaration is Addressed/Quoted in:*

- CRPD, Preamble, Para. (e):  
*Recognizing* that disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,<sup>13</sup>
- CRPD, Preamble, Para. (k):  
Concerned that, despite these various instruments and undertakings, **persons with disabilities continue to face barriers in their participation as equal members of society** and violations of their human rights in all parts of the world.<sup>14</sup>
- CPRD, Preamble, Para. (q):

---

<sup>11</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 46, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>12</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 232(p), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>13</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 2 (Jan. 24, 2007).

<sup>14</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 3 (Jan. 24, 2007).

Recognizing that **women and girls with disabilities are often at greater risk**, both within and outside the home, **of violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation.**<sup>15</sup>

- G.A. Res. S-23/3, Para. 5:

The Platform for Action recognizes that women face barriers to full equality and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability, because they are indigenous women or of other status. Many women encounter specific obstacles related to their family status, particularly as single parents, and to their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural, isolated or impoverished areas. Additional barriers also exist for refugee women, other displaced women, including internally displaced women, as well as for immigrant women and migrant women, including women migrant workers. Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women.<sup>16</sup>

- G.A. Res. S-23/3, Para. 27:

*Obstacles.* Gender discrimination and all other forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance continue to cause threat to women's enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. In situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation, human rights of women have been extensively violated. Even though a number of countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>8</sup> the goal of universal ratification by the year 2000 has not been achieved, and there continue to be a large number of reservations to the Convention. **While there is an increasing acceptance of gender equality, many countries have not yet implemented fully the provisions of the Convention.** Discriminatory legislation as well as harmful traditional and customary practices and negative stereotyping of women and men still persist. Family, civil, penal, labour and commercial laws or codes, or administrative rules and regulations, still have not fully integrated a gender perspective. Legislative and regulatory gaps, as well as lack of implementation and enforcement of legislation and regulations, perpetuate de jure as well as de facto inequality and discrimination, and in a few cases, new laws discriminating against women have been introduced. In many countries, women have insufficient access to the law, resulting from illiteracy, lack of legal literacy, information and resources, insensitivity and gender bias, and lack of awareness of the human rights of women by law enforcement officials and the judiciary, who in many cases fail to respect the human rights of women and the dignity and worth of the human person. **There is insufficient recognition of women's and girls' reproductive rights, as well as barriers to their full enjoyment of those rights, which embrace certain human rights as defined in paragraph 95 of the Beijing Platform for Action. Some women and girls**

---

<sup>15</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 3 (Jan. 24, 2007).

<sup>16</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, Annex, ¶ 5, U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3/Rev.1 (Nov. 16, 2000).

continue to encounter barriers to justice and the enjoyment of their human rights because of such factors as their race, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, disability or socio-economic class or because they are indigenous people, migrants, including women migrant workers, displaced women or refugees.<sup>17</sup>

### III. ORGANIZATIONS/GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 60:

By national and international non-governmental organizations and women's groups:

- (a) All parties involved in the development process, including academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and grass-roots and women's groups, **mobilize to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programmes directed towards** the poorest and most disadvantaged groups of women, such as rural and indigenous women, female heads of households, young women and older women, refugees and migrant women and **women with disabilities**, recognizing that social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments;
- (b) Engage in lobbying and establish monitoring mechanisms, as appropriate, and other relevant activities to ensure implementation of the recommendations on poverty eradication outlined in the Platform for Action and aimed at ensuring accountability and transparency from the State and private sectors;
- (c) Include in their activities women with diverse needs; recognize that youth organizations are increasingly becoming effective partners in development programmes;
- (d) In cooperation with the Government and private sectors, participate in the development of a comprehensive national strategy for improving health, education and social services so that girls and women of all ages living in poverty have full access to such services. Seek funding to secure access to services with a gender perspective and to extend those services in order to reach the rural and remote areas that are not covered by government institutions;
- (e) In cooperation with Governments, employers, other social partners and relevant parties, contribute to the development of education and training and retraining policies to ensure that women can acquire a wide range of skills to meet new demands;
- (f) Mobilize to protect women's right to full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies.<sup>18</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 175(d):

**Support programmes that enhance the self-reliance of special groups of women, such as young women, women with disabilities, elderly women and women belonging to racial and ethnic minorities<sup>19</sup>**

---

<sup>17</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, Annex, ¶ 27, U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3/Rev.1 (Nov. 16, 2000).

<sup>18</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 60, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

*These Provisions of the Beijing Declaration are addressed in:*

- G.A. Res. S-23/3, Para. 63:  
**Girls and women of all ages with any form of disability** are generally among the more vulnerable and marginalized of society. **There is therefore need to take into account and to address their concerns in all policy-making and programming.** Special measures are needed at all levels to integrate them into the mainstream of development.<sup>20</sup>
- G.A. Res. S-23/3, Para. 69(j):  
Adopt and promote a holistic approach to respond to all forms of violence and abuse against **girls and women of all ages, including girls and women with disabilities**, as well as vulnerable and marginalized women and girls in order **to address their diverse needs, including education, provision of appropriate health care and services and basic social services,**<sup>21</sup>
- G.A. Res. S-23/3, Para. 83(d):  
**Design and implement policies and programmes to address fully specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, to ensure their equal access to education at all levels**, including technical and vocational training and adequate rehabilitation programmes, health care and services and employment opportunities, to protect and promote their human rights and, where appropriate, to eliminate existing inequalities between women and men with disabilities.<sup>22</sup>
- CRPD, Art. 28(2)(b):  
States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures:  
**(b) To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes,**<sup>23</sup>

#### IV. EDUCATION

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 80(a):

---

<sup>19</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 175(d), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>20</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, Annex, ¶ 63, U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3/Rev.1 (Nov. 16, 2000).

<sup>21</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, Annex, ¶ 69(j), U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3/Rev.1 (Nov. 16, 2000).

<sup>22</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, Annex, ¶ 83(d), U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3/Rev.1 (Nov. 16, 2000).

<sup>23</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 17 (Jan. 24, 2007).

Advance the goal of **equal access to education by taking measures to eliminate discrimination in education at all levels on the basis of** gender, race, language, religion, national origin, age or **disability**, or any other form of discrimination and, as appropriate, consider establishing procedures to address grievances.<sup>24</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 81(a):

By governments, national, regional, and international bodies, bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations:

- (a) **Reduce the female illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on rural women, migrant, refugee and internally displaced women and women with disabilities.**<sup>25</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 82(k):

Ensure **access to quality education and training at all appropriate levels** for adult women with little or no education, **for women with disabilities** and for documented migrant, refugee and displaced women **to improve their work opportunities**<sup>26</sup>

*These Provisions of the Beijing Declaration are Addressed in:*

- CRPD, Art. 24:  
*Education*

1. States Parties recognize the **right of persons with disabilities to education**. With a view to **realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity**, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and life long learning directed to:

- a. The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity;
- b. The development by persons with disabilities of their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential;
- c. Enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in a free society.

2. In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that:

- a. Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from

---

<sup>24</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 80(a), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>25</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 81(a), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>26</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 82(k), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

free and compulsory primary education, or from secondary education, on the basis of disability;

- b. **Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live;**
- c. Reasonable accommodation of the individual's requirements is provided;
- d. Persons with disabilities receive the support required, within the general education system, to facilitate their effective education;
- e. Effective individualized support measures are provided in environments that **maximize academic and social development**, consistent with the goal of full inclusion.

3. States Parties shall **enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills** to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community. To this end, States Parties shall take appropriate measures, including:

- a. Facilitating the learning of Braille, alternative script, augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication and orientation and mobility skills, and facilitating peer support and mentoring;
- b. Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community;
- c. Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf or deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.

4. In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.

5. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without

discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities.<sup>27</sup>

## V. HEALTH

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 101:

With the increase in life expectancy and the growing number of older women, their health concerns require particular attention. The long-term health prospects of women are influenced by changes at menopause, which, in combination with life-long conditions and other factors, such as poor nutrition and lack of physical activity, may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis. Other diseases of ageing and **the interrelationships of ageing and disability among women also need particular attention.**<sup>28</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 106(c):

**Design and implement, in cooperation with women and community-based organizations, gender-sensitive health programmes, including decentralized health services, that address the needs of women throughout their lives and take into account their multiple roles and responsibilities, the demands on their time, the special needs of rural women and women with disabilities and the diversity of women's needs arising from age and socio-economic and cultural differences, among others; include women, especially local and indigenous women, in the identification and planning of health-care priorities and programmes; and remove all barriers to women's health services and provide a broad range of health-care services**<sup>29</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 106(o):

**Ensure that girls and women of all ages with any form of disability receive supportive services**<sup>30</sup>

*These Provisions of the Beijing Declaration are addressed in:*

- CRPD, Art. 25:  
*Health*

States Parties recognize that **persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of**

---

<sup>27</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 14-15 (Jan. 24, 2007).

<sup>28</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 101, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>29</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 106(c), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>30</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 106(o), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

**disability.** States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation. In particular, States Parties shall:

- a. Provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes;
  - b. **Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons;**
  - c. **Provide these health services as close as possible to people's own communities, including in rural areas;**
  - d. Require health professionals to provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent by, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and needs of persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care;
  - e. Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance where such insurance is permitted by national law, which shall be provided in a fair and reasonable manner;
  - f. Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of disability.<sup>31</sup>
- CRPD, Art. 26:  
*Habilitation and Rehabilitation*

**1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures, including through peer support, to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life.** To that end, States Parties shall organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, in such a way that these services and programmes:

- a. Begin at the earliest possible stage, and are based on the multidisciplinary assessment of individual needs and strengths;
- b. Support participation and inclusion in the community and all aspects of society, are voluntary, and **are available to persons with disabilities as close as possible to their own communities, including in rural areas.**

---

<sup>31</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 15 (Jan. 24, 2007).

2. States Parties shall promote the development of initial and continuing training for professionals and staff working in habilitation and rehabilitation services.

3. States Parties shall promote the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation.<sup>32</sup>

## VI. RESEARCH

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 109(d):

Increase financial and other support from all sources for preventive, appropriate biomedical, behavioral, epidemiological and health service research on women's health issues and for research on the social, economic and political causes of women's health problems, and their consequences, including the impact of gender and age inequalities, especially with respect to chronic and non-communicable diseases, particularly cardiovascular diseases and conditions, cancers, reproductive tract infections and injuries, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence, occupational health, disabilities, environmentally related health problems, tropical diseases and health aspects of ageing<sup>33</sup>

## VII. VIOLENCE

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 116:

Some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, women migrants, including women migrant workers, women in poverty living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, female children, **women with disabilities**, elderly women, displaced women, repatriated women, women living in poverty and women in situations of armed conflict, foreign occupation, wars of aggression, civil wars, terrorism, including hostage-taking, **are also particularly vulnerable to violence**<sup>34</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, 124(m):

---

<sup>32</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 15-16 (Jan. 24, 2007).

<sup>33</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 109(d), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>34</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 116, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

**Ensure that women with disabilities have access to information and services in the field of violence against women**<sup>35</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Action, Para. 126(d):

**Take special measures to eliminate violence against women, particularly those in vulnerable situations, such as young women, refugee, displaced and internally displaced women, women with disabilities and women migrant workers, including enforcing any existing legislation and developing, as appropriate, new legislation for women migrant workers in both sending and receiving countries.**<sup>36</sup>

*These Provisions of the Beijing Declaration are addressed in:*

- CRPD, Preamble, Para.(g):  
Recognizing that **women and girls with disabilities are often at greater risk**, both within and outside the home, **of violence**, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation<sup>37</sup>
- CRPD, Art. 16:  
*Freedom from Exploitation, Violence and Abuse*

1. **States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities**, both within and outside the home, **from** all forms of exploitation, **violence** and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.

2. **States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities** and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.

3. In order to prevent the occurrence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, States Parties shall ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities.

4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with

---

<sup>35</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶124(m), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>36</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 126(d), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>37</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 3 (Jan. 24, 2007).

disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including through the provision of protection services. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment that fosters the health, welfare, self-respect, dignity and autonomy of the person and takes into account gender- and age-specific needs.

**5. States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women- and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted.**<sup>38</sup>

## VIII. ARMED CONFLICT

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 131:

**An environment which maintains world peace and promotes and protects human rights, democracy and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the principles of non-threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence and of respect for sovereignty as set forth in the United Nations Charter,** is an important factor for the advancement of women. Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and development. **Armed and other types of conflicts** and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world. Aggression, foreign occupation, ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting women and men in nearly every region. Gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights, religious intolerance, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law. **International humanitarian law, prohibiting attacks on civilian populations, as such, is at times systematically ignored and human rights are often violated in connection with situations of armed conflicts, affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled.** Violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflicts are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. Massive violations of human rights, especially in the form of genocide, "ethnic cleansing" as a strategy of war and its consequences, rape, including systematic rape of women in war situations, creating mass exodus of refugees and displaced persons, are abhorrent practices that are strongly condemned and must be immediately stopped, while perpetrators of such crimes must be punished. Some of these situations of armed conflict have their origin in the

---

<sup>38</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 10-11 (Jan. 24, 2007).

conquest or colonization of a country by another State and the perpetuation of that colonization through state and military repression.<sup>39</sup>

*This Provision of the Beijing Declaration is addressed in:*

- CRPD, Preamble, Para.(u):  
Bearing in mind that **conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of persons with disabilities, in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation.**<sup>40</sup>

## IX. EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 178(f):

**Implement and monitor positive public and private-sector employment, equity and positive action programmes to address systemic discrimination against women in the labour force, in particular women with disabilities and women belonging to other disadvantaged groups, with respect to hiring, retention and promotion, and vocational training of women in all sectors**<sup>41</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 178(j):

**Ensure access to and develop special programmes to enable women with disabilities to obtain and retain employment, and ensure access to education and training at all proper levels, in accordance with the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities 30; adjust, to the extent possible, working conditions in order to suit the needs of women with disabilities, who should be secured legal protection against unfounded job loss on account of their disabilities**<sup>42</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 195(a):

**Provide leadership and self-esteem training to assist women and girls, particularly those with special needs, women with disabilities and women belonging to racial and ethnic minorities to strengthen their self-esteem and to encourage them to take decision-making positions**<sup>43</sup>

---

<sup>39</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 131, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>40</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 4 (Jan. 24, 2007).

<sup>41</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 178(f), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>42</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 178(j), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>43</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 195(a), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

*These Provisions of the Beijing Declaration are addressed in:*

- CRPD, Art. 27:

*Work and Employment*

1. States Parties recognize **the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.** States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia:

- a. **Prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions;**
- b. **Protect the rights of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to just and favourable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions,** including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances;
- c. Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour and trade union rights on an equal basis with others;
- d. **Enable persons with disabilities to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and vocational and continuing training;**
- e. **Promote employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment;**
- f. Promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business;
- g. Employ persons with disabilities in the public sector;
- h. Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures, which may include affirmative action programmes, incentives and other measures;
- i. **Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace;**
- j. Promote the acquisition by persons with disabilities of work experience in the open labour market;
- k. **Promote vocational and professional rehabilitation, job retention and return-to-work programmes for persons with disabilities.**

2. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery or in servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labour.<sup>44</sup>

## X. DATA COLLECTION

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 206(k):  
**Improve concepts and methods of data collection on the participation of women and men with disabilities, including their access to resources.**<sup>45</sup>

*This Provision of the Beijing Declaration is addressed in:*

- CRPD, Art. 31:

*Statistics and Data Collection*

1. States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and maintaining this information shall:

- a. Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;
- b. Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.

2. The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of States Parties' obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

3. States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others.<sup>46</sup>

## XI. AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON RIGHTS FOR THE DISABLED

<sup>44</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 16-17 (Jan. 24, 2007).

<sup>45</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 206(k), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>46</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 19 (Jan. 24, 2007).

Beijing Declaration, Para. 233(a):

**By Governments and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and other international organizations, as appropriate:**

- (a) **Translate**, whenever possible, into local and indigenous languages and into alternative formats **appropriate for persons with disabilities** and persons at lower levels of literacy, **publicize and disseminate laws and information relating to the equal status and human rights of all women**, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>33</sup>, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Declaration on the Right to Development<sup>34</sup> and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, **as well as the outcomes of relevant United Nations conferences and summits and national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**<sup>47</sup>

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 233(b):

**Publicize and disseminate such information in easily understandable formats and alternative formats appropriate for persons with disabilities**, and persons at low levels of literacy.<sup>48</sup>

*These Provisions of the Beijing Declaration are addressed in:*

- CRPD, Art. 1:

*General Obligations*

**States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. To this end, States Parties undertake**

- (g) **To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities**, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost;<sup>49</sup>

## XII. CHILDREN

<sup>47</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 233(a), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>48</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 233(b), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>49</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 4 (Jan. 24, 2007).

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 259:

**The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes that "States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, **disability**, birth or status" (article 2, par. 1). However, in many countries available indicators show that the girl child is discriminated against from the earliest stages of life, through her childhood and into adulthood. In some areas of the world, men outnumber women by 5 in every 100. The reasons for the discrepancy include, among other things, harmful attitudes and practices, such as female genital mutilation, son preference - which results in female infanticide and prenatal sex selection - early marriage, including child marriage, violence against women, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, discrimination against girls in food allocation and other practices related to health and well-being. As a result, fewer girls than boys survive into adulthood.<sup>50</sup>**

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 270:

**The girl child with disabilities faces additional barriers and needs to be ensured non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.<sup>51</sup>**

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 278(d):

**Facilitate the equal provision of appropriate services and devices to girls with disabilities and provide their families with related support services, as appropriate.<sup>52</sup>**

Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action, Strategic Objectives and Actions, Para. 280(c):

**Ensure access to appropriate education and skills-training for girl children with disabilities for their full participation in life<sup>53</sup>**

*These Provisions of the Beijing Declaration are addressed in:*

- CRPD, Preamble, Para. (r):  
**Recognizing that children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, and recalling**

---

<sup>50</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 259, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>51</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 270, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>52</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 278(d), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

<sup>53</sup> World Conference on Women, Sept. 4-15, 1995, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ¶ 280(c), U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/20, Annex II (Sept. 15, 1995).

**obligations to that end undertaken by States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**<sup>54</sup>

- CRPD, Art. 7:  
*Children with Disabilities*
  1. **States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.**
  2. In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
  3. **States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.**<sup>55</sup>
- G.A. Res. S-23/3, Para. 63:  
**Girls and women of all ages with any form of disability are generally among the more vulnerable and marginalized of society. There is therefore need to take into account and to address their concerns in all policy-making and programming.** Special measures are needed at all levels to integrate them into the mainstream of development.<sup>56</sup>
- G.A. Res. S-23/3, Para. 69(j):  
**Adopt and promote a holistic approach to respond to all forms of violence and abuse against girls and women of all ages, including girls and women with disabilities, as well as vulnerable and marginalized women and girls in order to address their diverse needs, including education, provision of appropriate health care and services and basic social services,**<sup>57</sup>
- G.A. Res. S-23/3, Para. 83(d):  
**Design and implement policies and programmes to address fully specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, to ensure their equal access to education at all levels, including technical and vocational training and adequate rehabilitation programmes, health care and services and employment opportunities, to protect and promote their human rights** and, where appropriate, to eliminate existing inequalities between women and men with disabilities.<sup>58</sup>

---

<sup>54</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 3 (Jan. 24, 2007).

<sup>55</sup> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, Annex I, U.N. GAOR, 61st Sess. Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/106, at 7 (Jan. 24, 2007).

<sup>56</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, Annex, ¶ 63, U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3/Rev.1 (Nov. 16, 2000).

<sup>57</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, Annex, ¶ 69(j), U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3/Rev.1 (Nov. 16, 2000).

<sup>58</sup> G.A. Res. S-23/3, Annex, ¶ 83(d), U.N. Doc. A/RES/S-23/3/Rev.1 (Nov. 16, 2000).

## COLOMBIA

**Date of the Report:** No date

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (10<sup>th</sup> May 2011)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (19<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1982)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/colombia\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/colombia_review_beijing20.ashx)

### **Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“In Colombia there are differences between women themselves for socio-economic reasons, ethnicity, regional background, rural or urban area, age group, disability, sexual orientation, among others, that lead to other forms of discrimination and increase the risk of vulnerability to exercise of their rights.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, National Compliance Exam on *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*,6. (Hereinafter: Colombia’s Report).

“In order to achieve inclusive education there was established a differential approach for women who have been victims of conflict, African descendants, indigenous, and women with disabilities.” Colombia’s Report 25.

“The Act 1429 of 2010, known as the Formalization and Employment Generation Law, establishes that those who hire young people under 28, women over 40 who have not contributed in the last two years, mothers and fathers head of family with SISBEN 1 and 2, disabled, displaced or reinserted people, may deduct from the income tax base payroll taxes of the jobs created.” Colombia’s Report 38.

### **Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

The report was written by governmental representatives who are not specifically involved in disability issues. However, institutions such as the Ministry of Health Care and Social Security, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of work relations have specific disability programs and strategies.

### **Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- National Council of Disability and the Program for the Social Equality and Inclusion (PAIS).
- ProFamilia

## **Analysis of report:**

This report makes references to women with disabilities, showing how different Colombian policies and legislation have included an intersectional approach, recognizing that women with disabilities face different types of discrimination, based on gender and disability. However, this report does not analyze or show the actual situation of women with disabilities in the country; no empirical information is included on women with disabilities although such empirical information is included in other sections of the report. Perhaps, this situation can be explained by the lack of differentiated data about women with disabilities. As an example, the state specifically ignores the question related with the collection of data of the situation of this particular group, and just explains the data about women living with HIV. Additionally, the Report completely ignores one gross violation of the human rights of girls and women with disabilities; that is, the forced, non-consensual sterilization of girls and women with disabilities. The CEDAW Committee cited this violation in its 2014 country review of Columbia.

<b>COSTA RICA</b>
-------------------

**Date of the Report:** May 2014

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2008)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (4<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1986)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/costa\\_rica\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/costa_rica_review_beijing20.ashx)

### **Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“Another two major challenges emerging in this period are located in the area of economic rights and sexual and reproductive health. In order to promote the economic independence of women there have been developed support programs, such as Fomujeres (productive fund non refundable) and Emprende (Articulation of the offer support services), directed to promoting and strengthening women enterprises and companies. However, the progress does not qualify as an achievement yet, the big challenge is to achieve its coordination and consolidation into a solid institutional machinery. In labor matters, the challenge is to extend employment protection for women's groups in situations of discrimination, especially domestic workers, women with disabilities and independent workers.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, Costa Rica report on the *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*, (May 2014) 10. (Hereinafter: Costa Rica’s Report)

“Women with disabilities: The X Census of Population and Housing VI included a question specifically directed to recruit people with a disability and the National Household Survey (ENAHO) 2013 included a module to capture information about this population. With the information from the X National Census of Population the National Council for Rehabilitation

and Special Education (CNREE) developed a publication on this population.” Costa Rica’s Report 30.

**Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

The report does not show if there were any more organizations or groups involved in its preparation other than the National Women Institute (INAMU).

**Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- The Inter American Institute about Disability and Inclusive Development (IIDI)
- Women with Disabilities Movement in Costa Rica

**Analysis of report:**

This report makes explicit references to women with disabilities in the labor field. It does not offer any empirical data, although it recognizes that women with disabilities face discrimination. The State also makes an explicit reference to the inclusion of disability in the National Census, which is an important factor to the construction of differentiated data on women with disabilities and their needs. However, this report does not consider the actual situation of women with disabilities in the country, and does not consider the discrimination they experience in accessing health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, education, employment and situations of abuse and violence, or institutionalization of women.

<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>
-----------------------

**Date of the Report:** No date

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (28<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2009)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 1993)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/czech\\_republic\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/czech_republic_review_beijing20.ashx)

**Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“Women and other endangered groups such as migrants or people with disabilities also suffer work uncertainty.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, Republic of South Africa, *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*, 13. (Hereinafter: Czech Republic’s Report).

“In 2011, a non-governmental non-profit organization APERIO – Society for Healthy Parenthood developed for the Government Committee for People with Disabilities a report titled "Women with Disabilities in the Czech Republic – Secondary Comparative Analysis of Status of Women with Disabilities in the Czech Republic. This detailed report deals with the situation of women with disabilities in the CZ. The Report inquires into gender-related occurrence of disabilities, gender-related types of disabilities and also monitors social status of women with disabilities. It also deals with participation of women with disabilities in public life. In addition to that, it includes an analysis of the position of women with disabilities in employment, labour market and economic activities, including entrepreneurship and reconciliation of work, private and family life. The Report also speaks about education of women with disabilities and in that section it presents questionnaire survey focusing on experience of women with disabilities with education in the CZ. Furthermore, the Report touches social and cultural and leisure-time activities of women with disabilities and domestic violence and violence against women with disabilities. The end of the Report includes a chapter on non-governmental, non-profit organizations specializing in the topics related to women with disabilities. This analysis made in the CZ is the first of its kind.” Czech Republic’s Report 20.

#### **Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

Many different groups were involved in generating this report, as evidenced by the list of documents provided at the end of the report. One such document is:

"Women with Disabilities in the CZ"(2011):

<http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/vvzpo/dokumenty/analyza-zeny-se-zdravotnim-postizenim-vcr-96999/>

#### **Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- Czech National Disability Council

#### **Analysis of report:**

The report does not refer specifically to women with disabilities. However, it does provide a good summary of the work that has been done with women with disabilities in a report generated by an NGO, titled “Women with Disabilities in the Czech Republic—Secondary Comparative Analysis of Status of Women with Disabilities in the Czech Republic.” There is also a link to this article listed at the end of the report. However, the link to the article does not seem to work and a quick Internet search for the report yielded no results. Furthermore, the NGO Report, although comprehensive on many aspects of the situation of women and girls with disabilities, the Government’s Report fails to outline specific measures it is undertaking to address the severe gaps. The Government’s report fails to address violence and abuse against women and girls with disabilities, including in institutions. Nor does the report discuss the State’s role in ensuring the provision of quality education and employment opportunities for women and girls with disabilities.

## FIJI

**Date of the Report:** May 2014

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Signed (2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010) but have not ratified.

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (28<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1995)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/fiji\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/fiji_review_beijing20.ashx)

### **Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“It recognises that gender equality is a fundamental human right, and that it is an inherent component of economic growth and development. It recognises that ethnicity, disability, religion and gender often intersect and create a multiplicity of sources of discrimination against women in Fiji.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, Fiji, Ministry for Social Welfare, Women & Poverty Alleviation, *Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000 (May 2014)* 6. (Hereinafter: Fiji’s Report)

“Fiji has through the years continuously progressed in the area of health provisions and services that is beneficial to women and girls both in the urban and rural areas. Areas of improvement from Health care facilities that is hospitals, health centers and nursing stations that has enabled easy access of health care services such as maternal (ante and post natal care), mental health, HIV/AIDS, sexual reproductive health and nutrition.” Fiji’s Report 18.

### **Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

None

### **Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons
- Fiji Disabled People Federation
- Pacific Disability Forum

### **Analysis of report:**

The report discusses woman and girls with disabilities in the section on health care, and then it specifically singles out only access to mental health care and ignores sexual and reproductive health care. There is no mention of disability other than related to mental health care, and the only other substantive mention of disability as a group is that people with disabilities should be free from discrimination, which describes the intersectionality between many groups including

gender and disability. The report does not address the need to ensure inclusive quality education and employment opportunities to girls and women with disabilities, respectively. The report also does not address the abuse and violence to which women and girls with disabilities are subjected, including the high incidence of abuse and violence to which they may be subjected to in institutions.

<b>INDIA</b>
--------------

**Date of the Report:** No date

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2007)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (9<sup>th</sup> July 1993)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/india\\_review\\_beijing20.pdf](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/india_review_beijing20.pdf)

**Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“Self Help Group (SHG), of 10-20 women in general is the primary building block of the NRLM institutional design. NRLM promotes SHGs with exclusive women membership. The SHGs and the federation of these SHGs at village and higher levels provide space for self-help, mutual cooperation and collective action for social and economic development for women. NRLM especially focuses on women headed households, single women, women victim of trafficking, women with disability and other such vulnerable categories.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, India’s Report on the *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*, 25. (Hereinafter: India’s Report)

“Issues of gender and gender sensitization have been one of the most challenging in the progress made towards the goals of Universalisation, inclusion, equity and quality in education. Gender being the most pervasive form of inequality operates across all classes, castes and communities posed a big challenge despite of progressive education policy. Moreover, even though the girls are not a homogenous category, nowhere do they enjoy the status, which is equal to that of boys. In their case, the dimensions of class, caste, religion, rural, disability etc. are further complicated by contemporary socio-economic and political environment that create cumulative disadvantages respectively in the context of girls from marginalization groups and rural areas.” India’s Report 33.

“The other objectives include improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, providing universal access to secondary level education by 2017, i.e., by the end of 12th Five Year Plan and achieving universal retention by 2020.” India’s Report 35.

“Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram brings focus on life skills, nutrition, injuries and violence (including gender based violence), non-communicable diseases, mental health and substance misuse- all critical for holistic human development of a young adult. It moves beyond the existing programming norms of facility based interventions and reaches out to 46 adolescents in their own environment, such as schools and community and at the same time focuses on their influencers and caregivers.” India’s Report 45-46.

“The HLC will examine the overall status of women including, inter-alia, the socioeconomic, health and nutritional, legal and political status, disaggregated by rural/urban, economic and social position (e.g. Above Poverty Line (APL)/Below Poverty Line (BPL), Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, single women, disabled women, migrant women) and wherever possible by minority status e.g. Muslims/others). The analysis would take account of cross-regional differences and focus on inequalities both within and outside the household.” India’s Report 7.

#### **Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

The report indicates that the “Working Group” includes NGO’s but does not name them specifically.

#### **Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- Disabled People’s International
- India Institute for Cerebral Palsy
- India Network of women with Disabilities

#### **Analysis of report:**

India is cognizant of the plight and needs of woman and girls with disabilities, and has made some preliminary significant strides legislatively to address their issues in several areas. The rights of women to access education, health care, housing, violence against women and other issues have been specifically addressed to some extent. Serious problems arise in implementation, however, especially with respect to violence against women with disabilities and forced, non-consensual sterilization, both of which are pervasive in rural areas of the country especially. While the new anti-rape law references women and girls with disabilities, police and other government officials often fail to take reports of such incidents seriously.

## IRELAND

**Date of the Report:** April 2014

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Signed (30<sup>th</sup> March 2007) but have not ratified.

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 1985)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/ireland\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/ireland_review_beijing20.ashx)

### **Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“Child Benefit is a universal non-taxable payment paid in respect of all qualified children, up to the age of 16 years, which assists parents with the costs associated with raising children. The payment continues to be paid in respect of children up to their 18th birthday who are in full-time education, or who have a physical or mental disability. Child Benefit provides assistance to all households with children in recognition of the higher costs incurred in child-raising and child care in a way which allows choice to parents in how this is undertaken. “59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, State of Ireland, Department of Justice and Equality, *Periodical Report on Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action* (April 2014) 23. (Hereinafter: Ireland’s Report).

**ALL ADMISSIONS TO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS BY GENDER AND DIAGNOSIS 2006 AND 2012**

Diagnosis	2006			2012			% Increase (decrease)	
	Male	Female	Women as % of Total	Male	Female	Women as % of Total	Male	Female
Organic Mental Disorders	245	225	47.9%	241	216	47.3%	-1.6	-4.0
Alcoholic Disorders	1,763	1,004	36.3%	843	518	38.1%	-52.2	-48.4
Other Drug Disorders	508	155	23.4%	618	213	25.6%	21.7	37.4
Schizophrenia. Schizotypal and Delusional Disorders	2,499	1,476	37.1%	2,176	1,545	41.5%	-12.9	4.7
Depressive Disorders	2,415	3,503	59.2%	2,438	2,947	54.7%	1.0	-15.9
Mania	1,201	1,528	56.0%	924	1,173	55.9%	-23.1	-23.2
Neuroses	512	644	55.7%	745	812	52.2%	45.5	26.1
Eating Disorders	17	161	90.4%	13	186	93.5%	-23.5	15.5
Personality and Behavioural Disorders	264	457	63.4%	323	748	69.8%	22.3	63.7
Intellectual Disability	76	106	58.2%	44	20	31.3%	-42.1	-81.1
Developmental Disorders	12	8	40.0%	15	2	11.8%	25.0	-75.0
Behavioural and Emotional Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence	14	9	39.1%	12	3	20.0%	-14.3	-66.7
Other and Unspecified	732	754	50.7%	722	676	48.4%	-1.4	-10.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	10,258	10,030	49.4%	9,114	9,059	49.8%	-11.2	-9.7

Health Research Board: Activities of Irish Psychiatric Services

These fundamental principles are reflected in RTÉ's ethos and in all corporate publications. For example, in the *Public Service Broadcasting Charter* the following statement is included in relation to the Station's Public Service Remit:

*"No editorial or programming bias shall be shown in terms of gender, age, disability, race, sexual orientation, religion or membership of a minority community." Gender: "in its programming and editorial content, RTÉ shall strive to resist gender stereotyping"* Ireland's Report 50-51.

*"Marketing communications should respect the dignity of all persons and should avoid causing offence on grounds of gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the traveller community."* Ireland's Report 52.

"Comprehensive data are gathered every five years at the national Census. The range of data collected is fully gender disaggregated and includes information on education, employment, health, disability, housing, in addition to the standard demographic data. The Central Statistics Office is also contributing indirectly to the processes established to gather the "Minimum Set of Gender Indicators" agreed by the UN Statistical Commission." Ireland's Report 57.

**Disabled People's Organizations involved:**

None.

**Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- Galway Autism Partnership
- Ability West
- Inclusion International
- Disability Federation of Ireland
- Irish Wheelchair Association
- People with Disabilities in Ireland

**Analysis of report:**

There was no mention of women with disabilities who are in institutions although there have been reported cases of violence and abuse in institutions. There is need to include women and girls with disabilities in the different goals of the Beijing Platform for Action so that the State can put in place measures to improve the lives of women and girls with disabilities in such areas as education, economics, violence, political participation and in all other sectors. Women and girls with disabilities face double discrimination and the State should take this into

consideration when putting measures in place to ensure implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

## ISRAEL

**Date of the Report:** October 2014

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (28<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 1991)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/israel\\_review\\_beijing20.pdf](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/israel_review_beijing20.pdf)

### **Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“Furthermore, women's organizations have not shied away from confronting meaningful possible lines of division within the feminist movement, such as issues of peace and feminism, racism within the movement, and intersectionality. In this regard, the movement has brought new understandings and new populations into the arena, including women from lower socio-economic strata, women with disabilities, and other marginalized women.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, State of Israel’s Report on the *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000 (October 2014)* 6. (Hereinafter Israel’s Report).

“We also note that there are large numbers of non-Israelis in the labor market. Since the late 1980s, the government has permitted entry of migrant workers. There are now some 300,000 legal migrant workers and an unknown number of illegal or undocumented workers. Most of these women are engaged in caring for the elderly or the disabled. Although Israeli law mandates that they receive minimum wage and all stipulated social benefits, this is irregularly enforced and provides no recourse for workers who are here illegally.” Israel’s Report 19.

“Women with physical disabilities also receive benefits specific under the law; a housewife who has not worked outside of her home is entitled to disability benefits which are similar (although still not equal) to those paid to a woman who has been employed outside of her home.” Israel’s Report 29-30.

Israel's National Health Law, which in its current format was passed in 1998, ensures health insurance based on progressive payments to all Israeli citizens. Coverage is comprehensive and inclusive and includes, for example, pregnancy and childbirth; termination of pregnancy (under stipulated conditions – see below); chronic mental and physical disabilities; and acute and chronic hospitalization and treatment. Israel’s Report 33-34.

The National Health Law mandates that all children with developmental difficulties must be treated in centers that specialize in this field; 32 such centers operate throughout the country,

along with addition 40-satellite units. Israel's Report 53.

**Disabled People's Organizations involved:**

None

**Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- Bizchut, Israel's disability rights legal organization
- Ma'an Organization of Bedouin Women
- Al Manarah, DPO for Arab Israelis
- Other disability and women's organizations

**Analysis of report:**

There is no mention of violence against women and girls with disabilities, including segments of the Israeli population who experience violence through poverty and war. Moreover, there is no mention of any programs to assist women with physical as well as mental disabilities to enter the labor market; the report only mentions the eligibility of qualified women with physical disabilities for government benefits. Finally, in Israel today many women and girls with disabilities live in institutions which themselves can be places of abuse and violence and the Report does not address this.

<b>JAPAN</b>
--------------

**Date of Report:** No date

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2014)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (25<sup>th</sup> June 1985)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/japan\\_review\\_beijing20.pdf](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/japan_review_beijing20.pdf)

**Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

"The Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities was revised in 2011 to add the provisions to the effect that "measures for supporting the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities shall be formulated and implemented according to the gender of the person with a disability and under an organic cooperation" to the basic policy for measures with women with disabilities in mind. Based on this, the Government incorporated the following in the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities as a cross-sectional perspective that is common to all fields of measures for persons with disabilities: measures shall be formulated and implemented

in light of the necessity of support for persons with disabilities on a case-by-case basis according to the gender, age, conditions of disabilities and actual living conditions, and particularly, attention shall be paid 11 to the points that women with disabilities sometimes face multiple additional challenges due to being a woman and that children with disabilities require different supports from those for adults with disabilities.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, Republic of Japan, Report on the *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*, 10-11. (Hereinafter: Japan’s Report)

“The Third Basic Plan states that efforts will be made to understand the actual conditions of cases where a woman faces multiple additional challenges due to being a woman and that necessary measures will be carried out from the perspective of gender equality as well as promoting human rights education and promotion and remedy for the victims of human rights infringement, based on the following basic direction of measures: if we are to build an environment in which people can live with confidence we need to be conscious of the fact women sometimes face multiple additional challenges due to being a person with a disability...” Japan’s Report 40.

**Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

None, although the report mentions NGOs, but no disability organizations.

**Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

Different NGOs and groups that have their focus on women, people with disabilities, and women with disabilities.

**Analysis of report:**

The few passing references to women with disabilities are very limited and tend to be focus only on “people with disabilities” rather than women or girls with disabilities, in particular. Gender appears to be one of many factors that are taken into consideration under Japan’s ‘Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities.’ There is need to look at women and girls with disabilities in each of the pillars of the Beijing Platform and what the State has done with regards to the same. Women and girls with disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse and violence and therefore specific measures should be in place. There should be inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all discussions on women’s rights at the local, national and international levels to ensure their inclusion in the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action.

<b>KENYA</b>
--------------

**Date:** No date

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (19<sup>th</sup> May 2008)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (9<sup>th</sup> March 1984)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/kenya\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/kenya_review_beijing20.ashx)

**Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“The UWEZO (Ability) Fund, which was established in 2014, is another milestone by Government aimed at empowering youth and women and persons with disabilities by providing interest- free loans as start-up capital for small and micro business of varying amounts not exceeding Kshs. 500,000 (USD 5682).” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, Republic of Kenya, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, *Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*, 13. (Hereinafter: Kenya’s report).

“The Government has also introduced the 30% affirmative action policy for women, youth and persons with disabilities in public procurement.” Kenya’s report 14.

“Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) -The Government has prioritized Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) for women youth and persons with disability. In this regard, the Government has drafted the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) Bill that is before Parliament.” Kenya’s report 15.

“With regard to Special Education, the government has set up a grant for purchase of learning materials for children with special needs. As a result, assessment of children with special needs has improved. Schools are now encouraged to provide an inclusive setting for children with special needs. There is an increase in the training of teachers in these areas to cater for children with special needs in hearing, visual, mental or physical challenges.” Kenya’s Report 22.

“The Constitution provides that the Senate consists of 47 members each elected by the registered voters of the counties; 16 women members nominated by political parties according to their proportion of members of the Senate; 2 members of the youth, 1 man and 1 woman as well as 2 persons with disabilities, 1 man and 1 woman. In addition the Constitution provides that 12 members (men and women) nominated by parliamentary political parties according to their proportion of members of the National Assembly to represent special interests including the youth, persons with disabilities and workers. This provision of the Constitution has been implemented and has seen an increase in the number of Women in Parliament.” Kenya’s Report 26.

“In compliance with CEDAW, the social rights protected in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 includes the right to equality before the law and equal protection; the right to marry and found a family; the rights for children (status as minors, nationality, registration and name); the rights of the older persons, the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of the marginalized

and minorities, the rights for members of religious, ethnic or linguistic minorities, to enjoy their culture, practice their religion and use their language.” Kenya’s Report 39.

“Vision 2030 identifies gender concerns and thus seeks to priorities equity in power and resource distribution between the sexes. With regard to girls, the Vision seeks to do this by improving access to opportunities, health services, education services, housing and justice particularly girls among the disadvantaged groups, persons with disabilities, people living in arid and semi-arid lands (ASA’S) etc., as well as minimizing vulnerabilities through prohibition of harmful cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), increasing school enrolment for girls and children from nomadic communities and poor rural and slum communities, attaining gender parity and fairness in the delivery of justice including up scaling training for people with disabilities and special needs.” Kenya’s Report 46.

“The education policy prohibits dismissal of girls from school on the basis of pregnancy and prohibits repetition of classes by students on the basis of performance. Other efforts include development of specific policies and programmes to address specific rights, such as, the provision of free and compulsory primary education, and the Cash Transfer Programme to assist orphans and vulnerable children among others.” Kenya’s Report 47.

**Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

None

**Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK)
- Women Challenged To Challenge (WCC)
- Kenya Association for the Intellectually Handicap (KAIH)
- Users and Survivors of psychiatry – Kenya
- Kenya National Association for the Deaf
- Leonard Chesire – Kenya
- Kenya Union for the Blind
- Autism Society of Kenya
- Action Network for the Disabled Youth
- Inclusion International

**Analysis of report:**

There was no DPO or organization that works with women and girls with disabilities involved in consultations with the government for drafting the report. They seem to remain forgotten in State discussions and other forums on women’s rights. There is need to include women and girls with disabilities in all forums on women’s rights at the local, national and international levels to ensure that they are represented and their issues highlighted. Although the report

does not mention of women and girls with disabilities, it does refer to “persons” with disabilities.

This CSW59 session and country reports are to focus on achievements and gaps in meeting the goals of the Beijing Declaration and thus Kenya’s report should focus on women and girls. The report should include women and girls with disabilities, in particular, and what the State has done with regard to women and girls with disabilities, in the context of the Beijing platform for Action.

In Kenya, there are high rates of violence against women and girls with disabilities and the State should compile and present the current statistics on the rates of violence and put in place measures to end the violence and to punish the perpetrators of such violence and abuse. Women and girls with disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse and there is need for State involvement.

The Kenyan Penal Code Section 146 still uses derogatory terms when referring to persons with an intellectual disability and provides a lower penalty in sexual violation cases, as it states:

*“Any person who, knowing a person to be an idiot or imbecile, has or attempts to have unlawful carnal connection with him or her under circumstances not amounting to rape, but which prove that the offender knew at the time of the commission of the offence that the person was an idiot or imbecile, is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment with hard labour for fourteen years.”*

Many sections of the Penal Code have been repealed, but this section remains. It should be repealed.

There is need to ensure girls with disabilities access quality inclusive education and women with disabilities access employment opportunities. There is need for awareness raising campaigns in order to end the negative stereotypes and attitudes about women and girls with disabilities, where they are still seen as a curse in some communities. Even though women and girls with disabilities are in the community there are cases of isolation, tying up, concealment and being locked up in the home.

## MÉXICO

**Date of Report:** May 30, 2014

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (17 Dec. 2007)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (23 March 1981)

**Link:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/mexico\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/mexico_review_beijing20.ashx)

**Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:** (translated from Spanish version).

“That same year, Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of Mexico was reformed, establishing that all persons shall enjoy the rights recognized by the Constitution and international treaties to which the Mexican State is a party, as well as guarantees for their protection, the exercise may not be restricted or suspended except in cases and under the conditions established by the Constitution; and prohibit any discrimination on grounds of ethnic or national origin, gender, age, disability, social status, health conditions, religion, opinions, sexual orientation, marital status or any other that undermines human dignity and is intended to nullify or impair the rights and freedoms of individuals.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, Mexico’s Report on progress made on the *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*, (May 2014) 10. (Hereinafter: Mexico’s Report)

“It is urgent to eradicate the different types of violence against women and girls inside families, the media, the school, work centers, community and in the institutions, with particular attention on women who face more vulnerability: rural women, indigenous, women in prison, afro-descendants, aged women, migrants and women who live with a type of disability or in extreme poverty.” Mexico’s Report 16.

In the health system, the specific needs of women with disabilities are still not met. As for cancer prevention, there is a lack of programs and skilled personnel needed to provide attention to these people in vulnerable situation. Mexico’s Report 26.

“In 2012 the Federal Employment Act was modified to improve work quality by incorporating dispositions related with the substantive equality between women and men. This is the case of the 8 weeks maternity lift, in cases where the newborn has any type of disability or requires medical attention; the maternity lift for adopting mothers, and the 5 days permission for fathers.” Mexico’s Report 38.

“In the regulatory aspect, stresses the General Climate Change Act, which came into force in October 2012 and mandated the Federal Government to develop the National Climate Change Strategy, issued in June 2013. This Strategy recognizes that the design of all policies on climate change must address issues of gender, ethnicity, disability, inequality, health conditions and inequality in access to public services.” Mexico’s Report 52.

### **Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

The report indicates that civil society was involved in preparing the report. However, among the 84 civil society organizations involved, none of them work with women and girls with disabilities. The National Council for the Development and Inclusion of persons with disabilities, a government entity, was involved in preparing the report.

In addition, “Albatros Centro de Desarrollo Integral” (Albatros Integral Development Center) is the only organization that Works with people with disabilities that was consulted in preparing the report. The Albatros Integral Development Center started to work in January 2007. Currently, Albatros serves more than 60 students ranging from 6 months to 34 years old with such impairments as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, hydrocephalus, microcephaly, and autism. The work of Albatros focuses on inclusion of children in schools, efforts to, help in job placement, promotes personal and professional development and various health services.

**Contact info:** Colonia Girasoles P.C. 28018, Colima, México, Phone number 312 315 2394, Email: comunicacion@centroalbatros.org  
Web: [www.centroalbatros.org](http://www.centroalbatros.org)

**Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- Disability Rights International-Mexico

**Analysis of report:**

This report makes explicit the situation of women with disabilities in the country, showing how different national policies and legislation have included an intersectional approach, providing the employment act and the environmental statute as examples. Although the report does not go very deep into issues facing women and girls with disabilities, it does recognize that women and girls with disabilities are more vulnerable to violence and discrimination. The report also makes an explicit reference to the lack of reasonable accommodations for women with disabilities in the health care system, generally, and in terms of access to reproductive services, in particular. The report does not discuss the extreme abuse and violence to which women and girls with disabilities are subjected in Mexican institutions.

<b>RUSSIAN FEDERATION</b>
---------------------------

**Date of the Report:** No date

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. 1981)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/russian\\_federation\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/russian_federation_review_beijing20.ashx)

**Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:** (translated from Russian version).

There is no single statement where women or girls with disabilities are specifically mentioned. However, in a number of phrases the persons with disabilities and children with disabilities are mentioned.

**Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

None

**Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- DPO “Perspektiva” ([www.perspektiva-inva.ru/en/](http://www.perspektiva-inva.ru/en/))
- Foundation for social assistance for Deaf blind “Elvira”

**Analysis of report:**

In general, the report reflects the social development programs for low income and vulnerable populations of the Russian Federation. Nearly all of the statements, where persons/children with disabilities are mentioned, express the government’s policy directed to increasing the social, educational and economic wellbeing of the targeted population. From the report one can understand that the government is mainly concerned about providing welfare assistance to disabled people and their families, improving the access to public places, promoting the inclusive education for children with disabilities, enhancing the employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, developing the social and medical rehabilitation services as well as organizing cultural events. However, in these discussions, only policies are discussed, rather than the actual current situation of women and girls with disabilities in the country. In all of these areas, there is no single paragraph where women or girls with disabilities are mentioned, as a group in need intervention. There is no evidence of effective engagement of DPOs for addressing the issues of women with disabilities. Further, the report does not mention the continued institutionalization of persons with disabilities and the abuse to which women and girls are subjected in such institutions nor other forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities. Nor does the report discuss need for quality education and employment opportunities for girls and women with disabilities, respectively.

<b>RWANDA</b>
---------------

**Date:** June 2014

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2008)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (2<sup>nd</sup> March 1981)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/rwanda\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/rwanda_review_beijing20.ashx)

### **Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

Equal right to education is guaranteed by the Constitution (2003) whose Article 40 stipulates, “Every person has the right to education. Freedom of learning and teaching shall be guaranteed in accordance with conditions determined by law. Primary education is compulsory. It is free in public schools. The State has the duty to take special measures to facilitate the education of disabled people.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, Rwanda’s Report on the *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*(June 2014) 16. (Hereinafter: Rwanda’s Report).

“A number of laws in Rwanda provide a strong legal basis for prevention and response to violence against girls as part of the general response to GBV. They include the GBV Law, the Penal Code no. 01/2012/OL (of 02/05/2012) repressing crimes related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Article 54 of Law 54/2011 provides that “a child with physical or mental disability shall be entitled to a special protection form by the Government and enjoy all rights recognized to the child without any discrimination related to their state or any other situation which would result from it.” Rwanda’s Report 44.

“Rwanda has made tremendous effort in reducing poverty from 60.4 % in 2000/01 to 44.9% in 2010/11. The ministry of local government research revealed that the most vulnerable people to poverty are older people, those living with disabilities, young children, female-headed households, genocide survivors and the historically marginalized. In order to keep this information on loop and make informed planning and decisions, the government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) developed a comprehensive database of all households in Rwanda. Basic information on each household is registered across the country including: number of members in the household, their date of birth, sex, marital status, orphan hood, and disability status. It also provides information on genocide survivors, single parents, the historically marginalized and the most vulnerable children. This information is managed through an electronic database, which enables more efficient and effective monitoring of programmes at sector, district and national levels. Information on women living with HIV and AIDS is collected through institutions such as: The Ministry of Health through Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) and the Rwanda Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (RRP+) while information on women with disability is managed by National Council of Persons Living with Disability (NCPD).” Rwanda’s Report 48-49.

### **Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

None

### **Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- Association Nationale des Femmes Sourdes et Muettes au Rwanda (ANFSMR),

- NUDOR (National Union of Disabilities’ Organizations of Rwanda)
- Rwanda National Union of the Deaf (RNUD)
- National Organization of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry in Rwanda (NOUSPR).

### **Analysis of the report:**

The report mentions “persons” with disabilities. There is only one mention of women with disabilities when the report refers to a UNCSW forum for discussion on progress made and areas for improvement on women and girls around the world. This is a space where all women and girls should be fully represented. Women and girls with disabilities face discrimination on the basis of disability and gender. The State should therefore recognize this discrimination and identify ways to address it. There are high rates of violence among women and girls with disabilities due to their vulnerability and this should be addressed. There should be provision of quality education and employment opportunities for girls and women with disabilities to ensure for them a higher standard of living.

<b>South Africa</b>
---------------------

**Date of Report:** June 2014

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2007)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1995)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/south\\_africa\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/south_africa_review_beijing20.ashx)

### **Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“The employment created through the EPWP programmes is still small compared with the number of unskilled unemployed people. Nevertheless, public employment programmes are crucial income-supporting programmes. Both the EPWP and the CWP have been successful in targeting women, the youth and people with disabilities.” 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, Republic of South Africa, Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Progress made on the *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000 (June 2014)* 21. (Hereinafter: South Africa’s Report)

“In 2009, the South African Government emphasized improving access to: Early Childhood Development (ECD), Grade R, Higher Education (HE), Further Education and Training (FET) and to people with disabilities while at the same time giving attention to the provision of quality education.” South Africa’s Report 21.

“Access to healthcare was also facilitated by the introduction of a massive infrastructure programme that saw more than 1 500 health facility infrastructure projects being completed following the advent of democracy. This includes building new facilities and revitalisation of existing facilities which facilitated access to healthcare within a 5km radius of where people lived. Primary healthcare delivered through the district health system become a cornerstone of healthcare policy in the country with all user fees for primary healthcare services, including for pregnant women, children under six years of age and people with disabilities are abolished.” South Africa’s Report 26.

“The Criminal law Amendment (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Act 32 of 2007 seeks to protect women and children by, inter alia, criminalizing a wide range of acts of sexual abuse and exploitation. It repeals the common law offence of rape and replaces it with a new expanded statutory offence of rape, applicable to all forms of sexual penetration without consent, irrespective of gender. It also repeals the common law offence of indecent assault and replaces it with a new offence of sexual assault, which contains a wider range of acts of sexual violation without consent. Moreover, the Act targets for punishment sexual predators that prey on children and people with disabilities. It criminalizes sexual exploitation or grooming of children and people with disabilities, exposure or display of child pornography or pornography to children and the creation of child pornography.” South Africa’s Report 28.

“A strategy to address gender-based and sexual orientation-based violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people is being developed. More work still needs to be done on the National Register for Sex Offenders. While the national register is not open to the public, employers in the public or private sectors, such as schools, crèches and hospitals, are accorded the right to check whether a job applicant is fit to work with children or mentally disabled people.” South Africa’s Report 30.

“The Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 5 of 2000 provides a framework for preferential treatment of historically disadvantaged groups (such as women and people with disabilities) in procurement transactions.” South Africa’s Report 33.

“The Institution of Traditional Leadership has established a Portfolio Committee on Gender, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities that helps to monitor cultural practices and customs that undermine gender equality. It also keeps the gender debate going within the Traditional Leadership Institution.” South Africa’s Report 35.

“It is also important to note that following the 2014 elections, the country has seen increase in appointment of persons with disabilities in Cabinet, with Ministers at 2, 8% and Deputy Ministers at 5, 4%. This has exceeded the 2% employment of people with disabilities that government set itself.” South Africa’s Report 36.

“During November 2010 and February 2011 respectively, the CGE held public hearings with selected government departments and private sector companies on measures they have put in place to ensure a 50/50 representation of women in decision making positions as well as

achieving the 2% target in employment of persons with disabilities.” South Africa’s Report 40.

“During the past decade, various quota systems and equity measures and mechanisms, aimed at measuring the levels of participation of women in the economy and decision-making have been introduced. Government’s commitment towards equity, equality and the provision of development opportunities for the vulnerable groups in general, and women in particular (including the girl child and women and girls with disabilities), was underscored by the establishment of the Ministry of Women, Children and People with Disabilities on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009.” South Africa’s Report 41.

“Section 5 (9) (b) of the Electronic Communications Act (Act 36 of 2006) stipulates that the Authority must, in granting a license— (b) promote the empowerment of historically disadvantaged persons including women and the youth and people with disabilities, in accordance with the requirements of the ICT charter.” South Africa’s Report 43.

“There are other programmes that government has taken it upon themselves to implement and these are:

i. Working for Water-The programme is globally recognised as one of the most outstanding environmental conservation initiatives on the continent. It enjoys sustained political support for its job creation efforts and the fight against poverty. WfW considers the development of people as an essential element of environmental conservation. Short-term contract jobs created through the clearing activities are undertaken, with the emphasis on endeavouring to recruit women (the target is 60%), youth (20%) and disabled (5%). Creating an enabling environment for skills training, it is investing in the development of communities wherever it works. Implementing HIV and Aids projects and other socio- development initiatives are important objectives. Since its inception in 1995, the programme has cleared more than one million hectares of invasive alien plants providing jobs and training to approximately 20 000 people from among the most marginalized sectors of society per annum. Of these, 52% are women.” South Africa’s Report 46.

“Working for Land (WfL) project- Working for Land in partnership with Land care Programme, communal farmers and community leaders to prevent and continuously control natural resources so as to mitigate bush encroachment/thickening and loss of top soil. This would create employment opportunities and socio- economic benefits for the local residents and thus making the necessary contribution to the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The Special Public Works Programme requirements of 60% women, 20% youth and 2% disability should strictly be adhered to.” South Africa’s Report 46-47.

“The GHS (General household Survey) covers six broad areas which are education, health, disability, social security, religious affiliation and observance, housing, energy, access and use of water, sanitation, environment, refuse removal, telecommunication, transport, household income, access to food and agriculture.” South Africa’s Report 52.

### **Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

There was no mention as to whether any non-governmental organizations were involved.

### **Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- Disabled Youth South Africa
- Disabled Children’s Action Group
- Disability Empowerment Concerns Trust
- Disability Action Research Team
- Disabled People South Africa (DPSA)
- Cape Mental Health

### **Analysis of report:**

South Africa included women and girls with disabilities in the section of their report on vulnerable groups and the special measures that have been taken to include them in development opportunities. States should be encouraged to also include in their reports what they have done to improve the situation of women and girls with disabilities under each category in the Beijing Platform for Action as well as what additional action may be required. Women and girls with disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse and the rates of violence continue to increase, especially due to the prevalence of guns in the country. The State therefore should highlight the specific measure taken to end such abuse and violence. There is need to ensure girls with disabilities access quality inclusive education and women with disabilities access employment opportunities.

<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>
-----------------------

**Date:** June 2014

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Yes (8<sup>th</sup> June 2009)

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (7<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1986)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/united\\_kingdom\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/united_kingdom_review_beijing20.ashx)

### **Quotes from the report that mention girls or women with disabilities:**

“The Government works to make equality for all an integral part of British culture, society, law and politics. The UK published its Equality Strategy in 2010, and prevents discrimination (including discrimination based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation)” 59<sup>th</sup>

session of the Commission on Status of Women, *Response of the Government of the United Kingdom and its Devolved Administrations on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*(June 2014) 4. (Hereinafter: UK'S Report). The nine main pieces of legislation that have merged are:

- The Equal Pay Act 1970
- The Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- The Race Relations Act 1976
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- The Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003
- The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003
- The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006
- The Equality Act 2006, Part 2
- The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007

The Equality Act introduced a new integrated Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on 5th April 2011. The Duty consolidates the previous Gender Equality Duty, and previous Race and Disability Duties, and for the first time extends to cover age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment. The Equality Duty ensures that public bodies consider the needs of all individuals in their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services, and in relation to their own employees.” UK's Report 7.

“DELS Disability Employment Service (DES) continues to support a high number of women with disabilities to move into employment and to stay in work. The most recent participation figure for gender on DES programmes show:

- Workable (NI) - 486 participants 299 (62%) male, 187 (38%) female.
- Condition Management Programme –60 % female, 40% male.
- Access to Work: 655 people, 315 (48%) male and 340 (52%) female.” UK's Report 22.

Vocation Education (VE) in Scotland: “The Commission for Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce is undertaking a review of Scotland’s VE system, making recommendations in an interim report published in September 2013. The second half of this Commission will be a focus on equality issues, looking to make meaningful recommendations to improve employment outcomes in relation to gender, disability and ethnicity.” U.K's Report 22.

Women in England today can expect to live, on average, to 83 years of age. Life expectancy for women is expected to continue to rise to 85 years by 2020. We are committed to women’s health and have implemented a comprehensive programme of dedicated health services for women in the areas of sexual health, maternity, mental health and violence against women and girls. The 2010 Equality Act Public Sector Duty applies to the NHS and Social Care public body providers. In the Equality Act women are specifically protected under the characteristics of “sex” and “pregnancy and maternity” but may also come under the other protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Lesbian and bisexual women have access to fertility

treatment services, and the Equality Act 2010 also protects lesbian, bisexual and transsexual women from discrimination when accessing public and private services, including fertility treatment. U.K Report 23.

### **Disabled women**

“The UK government is determined to eradicate discrimination and the Equality Act applies the prohibition against direct disability discrimination to areas beyond the field of work such as access to goods, facilities and services; and provides a new form of protection from discrimination that occurs because of something arising in consequence of a person’s disability. In 2009 the United Kingdom ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” U.K Report 57.

### **Disabled People’s Organizations involved:**

None mentioned

### **Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- Disability Rights UK
- Choices and Rights Disability Coalition
- Council of disabled people
- Leeds Centre for Integrated Living
- Sisters of Frieda
- Disability Now

### **Analysis of report:**

The report mentions women with disabilities, there is a section titled, “Disabled Women.” The report also discusses progress in the employment of women with disabilities, related to the government’s support and efforts to end discrimination of women with disabilities in employment. The report does not mention, however, the need for measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities live free from violence in the home, Institutions and schools. Furthermore, the Report does not address the problems outlined in the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women during her 2014 country visit. Additionally, the Report does not address the disproportionate impact on disabled women of recent cuts to various social programs in the UK.

<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>
-------------------

**Date of the Report:** No date

**Ratification of the CRPD:** Signed (27th Feb 2009) but have not ratified.

**Ratification of CEDAW:** Yes (19<sup>th</sup> July 1995)

**Link to the report:**

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national\\_reviews/uzbekistan\\_review\\_beijing20.ashx](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/uzbekistan_review_beijing20.ashx)

**Quotes from report that mention girls or women with disabilities:** (translated from Uzbek version).

“Crisis centers, help desks, "trusted" call centers, operating in different regions of the country and providing psychological, medical, legal assistance to women, who were victims of violence, are set up in addition to women's committees, and also other non-governmental organizations. In Tashkent region, with the active support of the Women's Committee, the Society of Women with Disabilities "Opa singillar" conducts its activities, which also provide a variety of services to support people with disabilities, among which there are women who have suffered from various forms of violence. 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Status of Women, Uzbekistan's report on the *Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000*,19. (Hereinafter: Uzbekistan's Report)

“From December 12, 2013 a Resolution of the President "On additional measures to assist the development of civil society", which provides for a 5 times decrease in state fee charged for state registration of NGOs from January 1, 2014. Public organizations of persons with disabilities, veterans, women and children will be charged a registration fee of 50% of the total amount of state fixed fees.” Uzbekistan's Report 32.

**Disabled People's Organizations involved:**

Society of Women with Disabilities “Opa-singillar”

**Suggestions of groups that should have been involved:**

- National Association of Businesswomen with Disabilities of Uzbekistan;
- Self-Help Group “Sharoit Plyus”;

**Analysis of report:**

According to the report, one DPO of women with disabilities in Uzbekistan was involved in writing the report, but there is need to include more DPOs in discussions on women and girls rights so that the voices of women and girls with disabilities can be represented. Some such opportunities include the empowerment on economic rights through promoting professional education and stimulating private enterprises of women with disabilities by partnering with the National Association of Businesswomen with Disabilities in Uzbekistan. Challenging cultural norms and disability stereotypes are also problems for women related to marriage and

parenting of women with disabilities and an area in which DPOs of women with disabilities should be directly engaged.

## CONCLUSION

Despite the fact that the Beijing Declaration specifically mentions women and girls with disabilities and the fact that the Beijing+20 process must include progress and gaps in the advancement of women and girls with disabilities, of the 16 country reports reviewed, the vast majority of country reports do not even mention women and girls with disabilities at all or what the State has done under each of the critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action with respect to girls and women with disabilities. And, only two country reports involved organizations of people with disabilities (DPOs) to some extent in the preparation of their reports.

The nearly complete failure of this sample of countries to mention women and girls with disabilities, and the abuse and violence to which they are routinely subjected in many countries, the pervasive denial of their sexual and reproductive rights, their extremely disadvantaged economic status, the ongoing impact of the intersections of gender and disability stereotyping, is inexcusable, especially in light of the fact that most countries reviewed have ratified both the CEDAW and the CRPD. There is an urgent need to include women and girls with disabilities at all discussions, fora, conferences and government initiatives at the local, national and International levels. For far too long, women and girls with disabilities have been missing and ignored and left out of all discussions and left to endure double discrimination throughout their respective societies based on gender and disability. In a document that specifically focuses on the rights of women and girls, women and girls with disabilities must be mentioned in all the specific areas and not grouped together, if at all, in to a category of “persons with disabilities,” as is done in some of these country reports. Women with disabilities also should be included in all discussions with governments, women’s rights organizations, and other organizations that work to increase political participation of women, development initiatives, leadership, health and all other issues that affect the lives of women and girls with disabilities.

Within the Post 2015 Agenda, women and girls with disabilities should be included not only in discussions related to poverty but also in discussions on gender equality and empowerment of women, maternal health, peace building, universal primary education and so on. Without including women and girls with disabilities into such discussions and initiatives, a significant portion of the world’s women and girls, more than 19% of all women, will remain unrepresented and progress on the rights of women and girls, generally, will not take place.

States must see that responding to the needs and advancing the rights of girls and women generally, must also take into account the rights and needs of girls and women with disabilities. To do so, states must work harder to raise awareness about disability in order to end the stereotypes about women and girls with disabilities, to eliminate the abuse and violence perpetrated against them, and to ensure the respect, dignity and acceptance of all women and girls with disabilities within their respective societies. That is the mandate of the CRPD as well as CEDAW. Once States identifies as a priority removing barriers to the inclusion and

acceptance of women with disabilities, women and girls will be able to more fully participate in and contribute to society, which then benefits society as a whole.  
WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES ARE WOMEN TOO!!!