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**Input into General comment nº 7 on article 4.3 and 33.3 of the Convention on the participation with persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention**

The active and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention is crucial to ensure that policies and legislation are in line with the State parties’ commitment to the Convention.

Paragraph 8 refers to the obligation of consultation and active involvement of all persons with disabilities. It should refer to the fact that some State-parties still allow and even recommend the restrictions on legal capacity with impact on the exercise of rights, namely the right to participation on an equal basis with all others. State-parties must ensure the existence of measures and safe-guards that will allow the expression and the respect for the will persons placed under guardianship, in all aspects of life and on an equal basis.

Paragraph 14 (b) refers to umbrella organisations of people with disabilities. We think that there is the need to acknowledge the existence and the role of the organisations that represent the rights and the interests of people and their families. Families are key actors on the recognition and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, namely when they have more difficulties in advocating for themselves. In Portugal, most all organisations that provide for services and advocate for the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities are family organisations, working together with professionals.

Paragraph 14 (d) should differentiate from people with intellectual disabilities and autism and psychosocial disabilities. Although they can concur, people with psychosocial disabilities have a different way to advocate and to organise themselves, both historically and on actual needs of support.

Paragraph 23 should acknowledge the need of specific support measures to access justice, namely the need to ensure that justice officials receive proper training on providing equal access to justice for people with disabilities.

Paragraph 48 should refer specifically to the needs of direct support to access justice, namely with the provision of facilitators, that will act as an interface between the legal system and the persons with disabilities.