

**MISSION PERMANENTE
DE BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE
GENEVE**

202-05-807-1/08

The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations at Geneva present its compliments to the secretariat to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with regard to the request sent by OHCHR on 8th June 2008 referring to Human Rights Council Resolution 7/9 entitled "Human rights of persons with disabilities", has the honour to enclose herewith contributions given by the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of the mentioned resolution.

The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the secretariat of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, August 06th 2008



Attached: 2 pages

**UNITED OFFICE AT GENEVA
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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OHCHR REGISTRY

07 AOUT 2008

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Ref. Number: 08-37-2092/1/08

Date: 22.07.2008.

To: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Re: High Commissioner for Human Rights - implementation of the Human Rights Council resolution 7/9 - human rights of persons with disabilities

Your ref. number: 07/4-3-05-4-8849-1/08 from 26.06.2008.

In response to the received letter of the High Commissioner with questions and the text of resolution "Human rights of persons with disabilities" we are sending you relevant information on activities being implemented in B-H in a view of legislative measures for the ratification of the Convention and Optional Protocol as well as other information regarding the paragraph 16 of the Resolution.

In 2007 Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees started activities on signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The procedure of signing this Convention has been initiated by the Federation and Association of persons with disabilities of B-H as well as the representatives of Landmine Survivors Network in B-H.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities represents comprehensive document which refers to several fields of protection of rights, as social and health protection, antidiscrimination in access to other rights in public life. Considering that improvement of standards of human rights protection of persons with disabilities in the field of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights is in question, these rights are, apart from being under the jurisdiction of the State, also under the jurisdiction of the Entities, Cantons and the District Brčko of B-H.

On 4th April 2008 Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, in accordance with above mentioned, organised coordinating meeting with the representatives of the competent Ministries of B-H, the Federation of B-H, the Republika Srpska and the District Brčko of B-H, as well as the representatives of the Coordinating Boards of Entities' organisations of persons with disabilities, in order to present the content of the Convention and its Protocol and the procedure of accession to these international documents stipulated by the Law on the process of concluding and conducting international covenants ("The Official Gazette of B-H" no. 29).

It is agreed that the participants at the meeting inform their institutions/organisations about the Convention and send information/opinion to the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of B-H.

Follow-up of the process of accession includes joint realisation of activities related to the presentation of the standards set forth in the Convention and assessment of needs in a view of amending relevant laws in force in B-H.

After undertaking activities of determining the obligation of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Convention and getting opinions, Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of B-H shall prepare the Basis for accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities and its Protocol.

These activities were planned to be realised until the end of July 2008 by the Working Plan of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees. The deadlines are not met since the competent Entity institutions have not sent their opinion yet.

In order to promote the rights of persons with disabilities based on human rights, Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, in cooperation with the Federation of persons with disabilities of B-H,

has started also activities on establishment of the Council of persons with disabilities. After making a draft proposal of the Decision on Establishment of the Council of persons with disabilities it shall be sent on adoption by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees initiates the adoption of this Decision in order to establish advisory coordinating body which shall, at the level of State, promote, advocate, follow the implementation of the standards in the area of protection of rights of persons with disabilities, prepare and give opinions and recommendations, reports and analysis to competent institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Entities and the District Brčko.

Sincerely yours,

Safet Halilović, PhD,
Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of B-H