**Lessele Panuncillo – Lugon**

**NIRMS – National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

In response to the letter to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights concerning a study to explore the bioethical responses to disability and discuss areas where potential tension could emerge conducting by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities *Ms. Catalina Devandas-Aguilar*, providing you with following information.

The results of monitoring and analysis of citizens’ applications provided by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights indicates that persons with disabilities face numerous forms of discrimination in various spheres of public relations, including health care.

At the same time, the Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities in its concluding observations on the first report of Ukraine on the state of implementation of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities stresses the need to provide persons with disabilities access to timely and qualify health services in both rural and urban areas, including provision of an access to medicines, rehabilitation services and giving information and services on sexual and reproductive health, family planning, especially for women and girls with a disability.

The positive step of the state in providing access to medical services is the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Improving the Accessibility and Quality of Health Care in Rural Areas", which provides an improved access to health care for the population living in rural areas, including for persons with disabilities.

One of the problems that prevent access of people with disabilities to medical services is an architectural inaccessibility to buildings in which health facilities are located.

Failure to comply with the regulations recognized by the legislation for the arrangement of medical institutions leads to the fact that in most cases access to buildings and premises, as well as the internal capacity of premises and bathrooms are not adapted for the needs of persons with disabilities.

As a result of the violations of the rights of citizens of Ukraine discovered during the monitoring visits, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights initiated proceedings and sent appropriate requests to the executive authorities and local self-government bodies, under the control of which there medical institutions were, with the requirement to ensure accessibility to buildings and facilities. As a result of the requests of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, a number of medical institutions were made accessible to the buildings and premises.

Another positive step of the state in implementing the provisions of Article 9 of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities is the development and adoption of state building norms B.2.2.-40: 2018 "Inclusivity of buildings and structures", approved by Order of the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine from 30 November 2018 № 327.

According to the new standards, all buildings and structures of Ukraine, as well as the necessary infrastructure, must be designed with accessibility elements.

These new building norms contain about 100 quality changes for the safety and comfort of limited mobility groups of people, these norms are a significant step towards creating a barrier free environment in Ukraine. All other state building norms being developed in the present time also address the needs of people with disabilities.

Meanwhile, it is necessary to certify that the problem of restriction of rights and freedoms of persons on the basis of disability and health conditions has become especially relevant in connection with the events related to the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and military aggression in the east of Ukraine, in particular the evacuation system, in therefore, the number of inpatient healthcare facilities was not adapted to emergency response.

In addition, there is no systematic approach in Ukraine to providing rehabilitation services to persons who have been victims of armed conflict.

Taking into consideration this background, in the annual report the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights is making recommendation to the central executive authorities to consolidate efforts and to implement in Ukraine an effective system of providing services for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, including all categories of vulnerable groups.

Herewith, it is necessary to indicate that euthanasia and assisted suicide of any person are prohibited by law in Ukraine.

Furthermore, prenatal diagnostics, disability identification for persons with any illnesses and consequences of traumas, as well as legislative compliance of issues with informed consent for treatments and scientific researches are within the competence of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

**Head of the Secretariat of**

**The Ukrainian Parliament**

**Commissioner for Human Rights L. Levshun**

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