



OHCHR REGISTRY

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**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus
Geneva**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the latter's Note Verbale, GVA 0664 dated August 5, 2010 on the follow up to the Human Rights Council Resolution 13/11 entitled "Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities: national implementation and monitoring and introducing as the theme for 2011 the role of international cooperation in support of national effort for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities" has the honour to enclose herewith the relevant information as prepared by the competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 24 September 2010



To:
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Response of Cyprus to HRC res 13/11 entitled "Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities: national implementation and monitoring and introducing as the theme for 2011 the role of international cooperation in support of national effort for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities"

a) Key measures adopted at national level to implement the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and relative budgetary allocations:

Although the Convention has not yet been ratified, many of its provisions are already implemented through national legislation, policies and measures for persons with disabilities. The Governance Programme for 2008-2013, as well as the Strategic Development Plan of Cyprus and the National Strategies on Employment, Social Protection and Social Inclusion include guidelines, policies and measures on disability issues, which are already being promoted.

Recognizing that a crucial factor for the effective implementation of any legislation is a central administrative structure for the formulation, co-ordination and monitoring of policies, programmes and measures for persons with disabilities, as from 01/01/2009, a new Department under the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance has been established, by the State Budget Law, which is the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (DSID).

The main measures and actions undertaken, planned and promoted by the DSID are:

- The establishment of a reliable and credible database and system for the assessment of disability and functioning based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health of the World Health Organisation. This project has a total value of €6,4 million and is co-financed by the European Social Fund.
- The re-organisation of the vocational training and rehabilitation sector for persons with disabilities with the design and provision of new and modern training and employment programmes.
- The introduction of The Recruitment of Persons with Disabilities in the Wider Public Sector (Special Provisions) Law No. 146(I)/2009, which regulates that in 10% of current vacancies in the wider public sector, persons with disabilities, who meet specified objective criteria will be recruited. Its purpose is to promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, offsetting the reduced opportunities because of their disability, by creating a positive measure to integrate disabled people into employment.
- The modernization and more effective implementation of social benefit schemes, aiming at an increased social protection level and an improved quality of life.

b) Challenges and obstacles to the full implementation at national level of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

Ratifying and implementing the Convention is a map for all future strategies, policies, targets, programmes, measures and actions for persons with disabilities in Cyprus. Co-ordination of the public and private sector for an effective implementation of the Convention is a challenge ahead.

In addition, the financial crisis faced internationally could be seen as a challenge but must not be seen as an obstacle for the full implementation of the Convention. The Government of Cyprus, recognizing the importance of the implementation of the Convention's provisions and having the issues of persons with disabilities as a priority, has not decreased the existing level of social protection of persons with disabilities. On the contrary, our targets for strengthening social protection and social inclusion are translated into initiatives and actions for measures that ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.

- c) **The existence, scope and content of policies and/or guidelines adopted at national level to guide international cooperation in support to the Convention.**

Guidelines related to the participation of Cyprus in the mechanisms and procedures followed at EU Level regarding the support of the Convention.

- d) **Forms of international cooperation at bilateral and multilateral level that, as a complement to national efforts, can play a key role in assisting the realization of the Convention at national level:**

- State membership in UN, EU and the Council of Europe.
- Bilateral cooperation agreements.
- Bilateral cooperation programmes.
- Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding.

In addition to the above, Cyprus is a State Party to the core international human rights instruments and submits its reports on their implementation to the monitoring bodies established by those instruments.

- e) **Examples of engagement in international cooperation and assessment of their impact on promoting the realization of the Convention.**

The following activities are examples of international commitments, which promote the realization of the Convention:

- Review of the procedures at the EU Social Matters Working Group for the formulation of the new Directive on Implementing the Principle of Equal Treatment Between Persons Irrespective of Religion or Belief, Disability, Age or Sexual Orientation.
- Participation at the EU High Level Group on Disability, being a consultative policy group by representatives of the 27 member states, as well as the representatives of the organisations of persons with disabilities, in the framework of the European Disability Action Plan 2003-2010 and the new European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.
- Participation at the Council of Europe Committees in the framework of the Council and Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015.
- Bilateral Agreement of cooperation with Greece.
- Bilateral two-year cooperation programme with Greece
- Memorandum of Understanding with Israel.