7 February 2022

**CYPRUS’ INPUT REGARDING ARTICLE 11 OF THE CONVENTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian Emergencies-**

**Contribution of the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth**

Cyprus welcomes the efforts of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and herebelow presents the contribution of Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth regarding the actions taken in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (Article 11 of the Convention).

The Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, in accordance with the Education and Training of Children with Special Needs Laws of 1999 to 2020, as well as the Education and Training of Children with Special Needs Regulations of 2001 and 2013, ensure that children with special needs are provided all opportunities for equal education and access to school space. Any provisions relating to emergency situations are the responsibility of the Safety and Health Office and concern all children attending the Public Schools of Cyprus, including children with special needs

Following specific guidelines given by the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, all schools implement Emergency Action Plans to ensure the protection and safety of both pupils and staff members in case of risk (i.e. armed conflict, fire, natural disasters). These specific action plans include special arrangements and procedures for handling persons with disabilities, especially during the evacuation process. The Actions Plans are regularly updated. Special provision is made so that all schools have the necessary infrastructure to facilitate persons with disabilities, in accordance with the relevant legislation. During the planning phase, all necessary protection actions are discussed with the person with disabilities or his/her parents/guardians. A predefined support team is trained on the exact evacuation plan and the relevant support needed in order to assist persons with disabilities to safely evacuate the building. In addition, staff is informed about the daily schedule, the needs of the persons with disabilities and the protective actions that shall be taken in an emergency situation.

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