## “Achieving real gender balance and equitable geographical representation in the 2024 elections of members of the Committee”

### Statement of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

#### Adopted during the Committee’s thirtieth session (04 March-22April 2024)

Article 34(4) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities calls for States parties to consider “equitable geographical distribution, representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of experts with disabilities” in the election of members.

The Committee acknowledges the irreplaceable role of persons with disabilities, particularly at the intersection of gender and disability in informing its work. Taking into account that more than 50% of persons with disabilities are women and girls, their rights should be comprehensively understood and protected. Throughout its history, the Committee has benefited from contributions by women experts who have taken a lead in advancing the understanding of CRPD, particularly on intersections between gender and disability rights. Their leadership has been instrumental in addressing specific violations faced by women and girls living with disabilities.

Nevertheless, despite this progress, achieving real gender balance that mirrors the needs of women and girls with disabilities around the globe remains a top priority for the Committee. Gender equality is more than just about representation, rather, it is critical to ensure all perspectives are incorporated into deliberations and decisions of the Committee that include those from women and girls with disabilities.

In parallel, the Committee underscores the significance of geographical equity. Representation from different regions must be equal to ensure that we have a broad understanding of diverse challenges and viewpoints that people with disabilities face across the globe.

The Committee further stresses the significance of the recent United Nations General Assembly resolution of last October 2023, which highlights the relevance of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of human rights treaty bodies. Inclusive electoral process at the international level, not only contribute to raising awareness of the importance of gender balance but also emphasize the representation of the principal legal systems and the principles of personal capacity, high moral character, acknowledged impartiality, and recognized competence in the field of human rights among members of the treaty bodies.

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