**Maat for Peace’ submission on**

**Re-Imagining Services in the 21st Century to give effect to the right to live independently and be included in the community for persons with disabilities**

**Introduction**

Persons with disabilities face various patterns of discrimination and barriers that restrict their effective participation in society on an equal basis with others and are often denied their right to live independently and be integrated into society. They are robbed of their right to quality education, are often denied the chance to take part in the workforce or practice inherent rights such as the right to vote, participate in sports and cultural activities, enjoy social protection, access to justice, consent or refusal to medical treatment, and freely enter into legal obligations such as opening or acquiring a bank account and inheriting property.

As stated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the General Committee No. 5 (2017) on independent living and inclusion in society, the realization of the right of persons with disabilities to independent living and inclusion in society requires a range of basic services, including adequate housing services, health-care services and access to transport, information and daily routines, employment, decent work, personal relationships and individual support services focused on the individual, such as personal assistance and assistive technology, including model and traditional assistive devices, and other publicly available public services. While these services are important in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities to inclusion and independent living in society; however, the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the inadequacy of these services, their lack of flexibility in times of crisis and their inability to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and integrate into society in times of crisis. This, in turn, requires developing new services capable of addressing the shortcomings of traditional services under the pandemic. At the invitation of the Special Rapporteur on persons with disabilities to States, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to provide interventions on the reimagining of services in the twenty-first century for the realization of the right to independent living and social integration of persons with disabilities. Maat for Peace makes its interventions by responding to some questions of the questionnaire attached to the invitation as follows:

**What are the basic principles and objectives governing the provision of services to persons with disabilities in your State?**

A set of basic principles and objectives governing the provision of services to persons with disabilities in the Arab Republic of Egypt are set out in article 4 of Law No (10) of 2018 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, topped by the principles of non-discrimination in the provision of services on the basis of disability, type or sex of a person with disabilities; equality in the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields; eliminating all obstacles to the enjoyment of these rights by persons with disabilities; respecting the freedoms of persons with disabilities to make their own choices and exercise their independent will; equal opportunities between persons with disabilities and others, and accepting differences as part of human diversity. The basic objectives governing the provision of services to persons with disabilities in Egypt, as set out in the above-mentioned article, are clear to facilitate the accessibility and utilization of persons with disabilities of the surrounding physical environment, means of transport, information and communication to their greater potential, enabling persons with disabilities to participate in the conduct of public affairs on an equal basis with others and encouraging the participation of persons with disabilities in the development of policies and programs by themselves or their families or representative organizations, providing a safe environment for persons with disabilities, and not exposing them to the exploitation of all kinds, violence, torture, abuse, neglect, omission or degrading treatment.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Have these principles and goals been modified to explicitly take into account article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the right to live independently and be included in society, for example, personalization of services, personal and human support, assistive technology, accessible transport, access to housing, expansion of community services, emphasis on personal empowerment and choice?**

Yes, the basic principles and objectives governing the provision of services to persons with disabilities in the Arab Republic of Egypt explicitly take into account article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the right to live independently and to be integrated into society. Article 25 of the Disabled Persons' Rights Act No. 10 of 2018 to take the necessary measures and living arrangements to ensure the full integration and participation of persons with disabilities in society Persons with disabilities are granted monthly assistance in accordance with the provisions of the Social Security Act No. 137 of 2010. This article also grants persons with disabilities the right to combine two pensions of their own entitlement or of their husband, wife, parents, children, brothers and sisters with no maximum exception to the Social Insurance Act No. 79 of 1975, as stipulated in the article. (26) On allocation of not less than (5%) Housing established or supported by the State for persons with disabilities who are unable to do so in order to enable their integration into society, as well as the implementation regulation of the Disabled Persons' Rights Act No. (10) For the year 2018 has been obligated in Articles (64 - 72), and Articles (84 - 86) to Provide a person caring for persons with disabilities who has identified the manner of appointment, rehabilitation and transfer of care to a person with one or more disabilities, such as personal and human support or personal assistance provided for in article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[[2]](#footnote-2)

In addition, Law No. (10) of 2018 in Articles No. 29 and 30 of it obliges the state, the Ministry of Transport and the administrative authorities concerned with planning affairs to prepare facilities for ease of use for persons with disabilities, to facilitate their transportation, and to allocate places for them in all means of transportation of all kinds and degrees. and categories, reducing the fare payable by no less than 50%, and using technological means in transportation and communications. Ordinary 75% of people with disabilities and the blind, subscription fees of 50% for the blind[[3]](#footnote-3). Providing the necessary facilities for people with disabilities by customer service at the stations, allocating seats for the elderly with disabilities in all regular train cars, and providing most railway stations with wheelchairs for people with disabilities, and chests. The decision of the General Authority for Egyptian Railways in 2018 to reduce the travel fare for persons with disabilities and their assistants all under the proof of disability card. As for the subway, the Egyptian Company for the Management and Operation of the Underground has, in the same context, reduced the value of subscriptions up to 98% of the actual value of persons with disabilities, as well as installing electric elevators and escalators for going up and down[[4]](#footnote-4), and allocating special seating for people with disabilities inside. Each vehicle, and these efforts come within the framework of the Egyptian government's keenness to facilitate transportation services for people with disabilities in order to enable them to live independently and integrate into Egyptian society.

**Who primarily provides services for persons with disabilities (State, local government, State- mandated private service providers, religious organizations, etc., or combination?)**

Persons with disabilities in the Arab Republic of Egypt receive their services by more than one service. The Egyptian State, represented by the Government and various ministries, provides services for persons with disabilities and civil society organizations and institutions concerned with persons with disabilities. Companies and private service providers who provide services to persons with disabilities are mandated by the State in exchange for wages for such services.

**Who primarily pays for services for people with disabilities (state, local government, state-mandated private service providers, religious organizations, etc., or a combination?)**

The Egyptian State, represented by the Government and various ministries, primarily pays for services provided to persons with disabilities in the Arab Republic of Egypt services, including transport, housing and education, while a limited number of civil society organizations, associations and institutions in the Arab Republic of Egypt are involved in the provision of services to persons with disabilities, including education and housing services free of charge or at a limited material cost.

**Describe generally how community service providers are paid for services they provide, for example, through public grants, individual funding, based on specific services provided, or other means.**

Community service providers in the Arab Republic of Egypt are paid for the services they provide to persons with disabilities through public grants provided by the Government through the State's general budget. Some service providers may obtain the necessary financial resources to provide services to persons with disabilities through grants provided by international and local bodies and institutions concerned with the rights of persons with disabilities.

**What new services, including those to support families, have been added to the range of services available to promote principles compatible with Article 19?**

Over the past years, the Egyptian government has implemented many programs aimed at providing new services for people with disabilities to integrate them into Egyptian society, including the Integrated Services Card Program for Persons with Disabilities, which enables persons with disabilities to obtain services and facilities from various government agencies, including housing, transportation, education, health care and other services. Under this card, persons with disabilities can appoint 5% of the number of workers in government jobs, free examinations in hospitals, customs exemption on equipped cars and prosthetic devices, exemption from taxes, and integration in basic education schools and institutes. and universities.[[5]](#footnote-5)

**What practices, if any, have been adopted/encouraged to promote greater use of technology to personalize support for persons with disabilities (such as telehealth, remote surveillance and adaptive communication, artificial intelligence, etc.)?**

The Egyptian Government has implemented a number of initiatives aimed at encouraging the use of technology and artificial intelligence to personalize support for persons with disabilities including the national project to establish a unified system for the production of prosthetics and compensatory devices launched by the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity in December 2020, which aims to provide prosthetics for the empowerment of persons with motor disabilities. Their integration into education at all levels, in employment and in society as a whole, by providing assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hemispheres, cerebral or quadruple.[[6]](#footnote-6)

**Have you adopted any positive “wealth accumulation strategies” (eg, innovative trust funds) to supplement the provision of social services?**

Yes, the Arab Republic of Egypt has launched a number of trust funds aimed at providing social services to persons with disabilities including the charitable investment fund to support persons with disabilities known as "Ata", established by the Ministry of Social Solidarity in cooperation with the Social Bank of Nasser in November 2019, With the aim of investing funds to direct its return to care and support institutions with disabilities and funding of bodies, bodies and associations providing services to persons with disabilities at the levels of health and social services, and support to universities, schools or other educational institutions serving persons with disabilities and contributing to the financing of the construction or operation of homes for persons with disabilities, as well as the financing of medical convoys for villages without access to health care for persons with disabilities.[[7]](#footnote-7)

In addition to the Fund for the Support of Persons with Disabilities, established under Act No. 200 of 2020, with the aim of contributing to the protection, welfare and social development of persons with disabilities, Supporting persons with disabilities in all economic, health, educational and training aspects schools, institutes and universities for persons with disabilities, contributing to the cost of compensatory devices and disability-related surgeries for the uninsured, Work to support the financial inclusion of persons with disabilities, and participate in their training and employment to provide them with a decent life.[[8]](#footnote-8)

1. Articles of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law No. 10 of 2018, can be viewed through the following link: <https://bit.ly/3qHf3l3> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Articles of the executive regulations of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law No. 10 of 2018, can be viewed through the following link: <https://bit.ly/3eNZJAj> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. تعرف على تخفيضات السكة الحديد للمعاقين ومرافقيهم × 8 معلومات، اليوم السابع، 13 نوفمبر 2021، الرابط: <https://bit.ly/3QLkTwi> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. تخفيضات باشتراكات المترو للطلاب وكبار السن وذوى الاحتياجات، الأهرام، 23 أغسطس 2020، الرابط: <https://bit.ly/3UglU2f> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. خطوة بخطوة.. استخراج بطاقة الخدمات المتكاملة لذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة 2022 أونلاين، المصرياليوم، 13 مايو 2022، الرابط: <https://bit.ly/3RNRrqV> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. التضامن تطلق المرحلة الأولى من برنامج إنشاء منظومة موحدة لإنتاج الأطراف الصناعية، الهيئة العامة للاستعلامات، 19 ديسمبر 2020، الرابط: <https://bit.ly/3eHQIsr> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. نبذه عن صندوق الاستثمار الخيري لدعم ذوي الاعاقة "عطاء"، صندوق الاستثمار الخيري لدعم ذوي الاعاقة "عطاء"، الرابط: <https://bit.ly/3BJShz7> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. جهود الدولة فى رعاية اصحاب الهمم، الهيئة العامة للاستعلامات، 03 أغسطس 2022، الرابط: <https://bit.ly/3QPsDgC> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)