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The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedure Branch, Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and with reference to the letter by the Special Rapporteur, dated 12 August 2022, on seeking contribution for his report to the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council 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"**, would like to attach, herewith, a contribution by the Syrian Arab Republic to the abovementioned report.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedure Branch, Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Annexe: ment.

**Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Special Procedure Branch, Mandate of the Special Rapporteur
on the rights of persons with disabilities**



Contribution by the Syrian Arab Republic

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

Report of the SR for the 52nd of the HRC

- 1. Who primarily delivers services to people with disabilities (State, local government, private providers commissioned by the State, religious organizations, other, or a mix?). How do you see this mix changing if at all as a result of the UN CRPD in your country?*

Services for persons with disabilities in the Syrian Arab Republic are provided by governmental and private sector, and by non-governmental organizations. There are various efforts to enhance the computability of the national framework with the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- 2. Who primarily pays for services to people with disabilities (State, local government, private providers commissioned by the State, religious organizations, other, or a mix?). How do you see this mix changing if at all*

It depends on the service provider. Service provider from government sector provide free of charge services according to the specialization of each of them and in implementation of the provisions of the constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic and Law No. 34 of 2004 on persons with disabilities. For example, the government bears the costs of the basic and secondary level, and it is semi-free for university education level without discrimination. Legislative Decree No. 57 of 2012 stipulates special reduction in customs costs for purchasing cars by persons with disabilities to facilitate their movement. Also the government bears the costs of installing artificial limbs. Treatment in public hospitals is free of charge or at affordable cost.

The National Fund for Social Aid also bears 6% of the loans granted to persons with disabilities to have small projects. These examples are in addition to the services provided by non-governmental organizations, which are wide and varied, free of charge as these organizations bear their costs.

- 3. Describe generally how community-based providers are paid for the services they deliver (e.g., through general grants, through per capita funding, based*

on specific services rendered, other means?). What changes, if any, are anticipated regarding the present payment methodology?

Such services are provided through assets provided to NGOs or projects implemented with international organizations for the interest of persons with disabilities, and within the framework of the existing cooperation with international organizations. Various mobility aids and equipment are provided, cash aid programs and educational programs are implemented.

4. *In what ways are principles and service goals communicated to the service system (e.g., in laws, service standards, staff training, funding incentives, means for compensating/penalizing service providers, and/or for assessing the quality of services?). Please describe.*

Specialized training courses are implemented for staff of institutions working with peoples with disabilities in care centers affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Program and the Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (UN- ESCWA) various training programs on social development and integration of persons with disabilities are implemented. Incentives of 50% are given to care services providers for persons with disabilities for staff of care institutes affiliated with the Ministry.

The Ministry of Social Affairs have a plan that aims to improve the quality of the services in the care centers the Ministry and its 36 centers. There is a cooperation with UN agencies working in Syria to implement a plan to rehabilitate a number of centers which were damaged due to the acts of terrorists groups.

5. *What new services, including those to support families, have been added to the available service array to advance principles consistent with Article 19?*

Work is underway to implement the engineering code for all modern buildings. New training programs are being implemented by some NGOs to train families on how to address with cases of disabilities in the family, within pre-prepared programs for this purpose, and to provide them with the necessary support. Since 2018, and benefiting from the existing cooperation programs with international organizations working in Syria, the cash aid project for people with disabilities has been launched in cooperation with UNICEF. This project aiming to address the complex needs of the disabled up to 18 years old, in parallel with providing case management services to refer them to specialized social services.

6. *What practices, if any, have been adopted/encouraged to promote greater use of technology to personalize support to persons with disabilities (e.g.,*

telehealth, remote monitoring, adaptive communication, artificial intelligence, etc.)?

In coordination with the Ministry of Communications and Technology and national institutions on disability, with the support of UN-ESCWA, a national policy to access to digital technologies is under preparation to increase the integration of persons with disabilities and expand their access to opportunities of training and learning.

7. *In what ways are caregivers (e.g., family members, other informal caregivers) recognized and supported?*

The disability card authorizes care providers to review concerned agencies to request the provision of basic services to persons with disabilities,

Care providers from NGOs work under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, which facilitates their cooperation with United Nations agencies to implement various support projects for people with disabilities.

8. *Do you have a policy of personalizing/tailoring services to individual needs? How is the policy implemented? (e.g., through individual planning requirements? etc.).*

The assessment of individual needs is the basis for providing services to people with disabilities. A special social and economic study of the situation of the individual and the family is conducted for this aim through NGOs and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

Referral to the specialized services according to the case of disability and the required services are made through specialized care centers according to the case of disabilities. There are special care centers working under the supervision of the Ministry (about 34 centers in all governorates). There are plans to expand the individual needs monitoring and assessment through supporting these centers and training their staff and providing the basic needs to their work.

9. *Describe how much control people with disabilities have regarding the services that they receive (e.g., choice of who provides support, choice of where they live and with whom they live, control over budgets).*

Choosing the type of services depends basically to the availability taking into consideration the limited resources and the difficulties in affording the requirement for the care centers and the services they provide, especially in terms of education of people with disabilities. We would like to refer here to the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measure imposed on Syria which have affects the availability of financial and technical capacities of the national institution, whether governmental or non-governmental, in providing services.

10. In some disability support structures, service users or families have an allocated budget which is devolved so they have control over how the funds are used to purchase eligible disability supports. Do you have or anticipate a policy of devolving budgets to the service user? Describe.

An annual financial subsidy is allocated to families of people with cerebral palsy through the budget of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. During the year 2021 13,474,168.584 Syrian pounds were distributed to about 28,500 families of persons with disabilities. There is a special fund to persons with disability on the Central Council of Persons with Disability.

In the framework of the existing cooperation and partnership projects with international organizations, including the UNICEF organization, since the year of 2018 a cash aid project for the families of children with complex cases of disability is launched, with a number of beneficiaries among children that reached 30.000 with the end of 2021.

11. What lessons have been learned to build momentum, while minimizing resistance, for systems change consistent with Article 19?

Work is currently underway to amend Law No. 34 of 2004 on the rights of persons with disabilities to be more in line with the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

12. Do you have an initiative to re-imagine services that includes service users (e.g., have you commissioned a Task Force?).

There are efforts to update services provided through the National Disability Plan and through the concerned parties related to care services for people with disabilities represented in the Central Council for Persons with Disabilities, which is concerned with proposing and implementing national policies and plans for persons of disabilities. The system of granting disability card is under update to reflect various benefits for people with disabilities through the automation of disability registry for card holders.

An information system for persons with disabilities is under development. It will be associated with a map of services for service providers for people with disabilities to strengthen coordination mechanisms with active partners.

Building capacities of national staff working on disability issues in the field of achieving inclusive development for persons with disabilities.

Rehabilitating the care centers for people with disabilities affiliated with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, improve their services, and provide them with basic necessities, in particular for education dedicated to persons with disabilities, through benefiting from existing partnerships with international organizations.

13. In what ways do you solicit the input of people with disabilities and family members in policy making, program oversight, strategic planning, etc. (e.g., national advisory councils, regional/local forums, surveys, webinars, etc.).

Through all related elements which were mentioned above, in addition to implementing the provisions of the National Disability Plan, which allowed persons with disabilities to be integrated into all walks of life on equal basis with others.

14. What are the two or three strategic objectives you have to enhance the quality, availability, and effectiveness of services to people with disabilities in your state?

1. Develop the institutional capacities of the national institutions concerned with providing services for people with disabilities.
2. Develop new legislation and policies on persons with disabilities, and review the existing, in line with the obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
3. Raise public awareness and improve public understanding of the issue of disability and the rights of persons with disabilities in a way that enhances the process of comprehensive integration into society.
4. Expand the participation of persons with disabilities and integrating them in various aspects of public life, including political life and sports activities.
