



## Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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### Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

#### Concluding observations on the initial report of Uganda\*

##### 1. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the initial report of Uganda (CRPD/C/UGA/1) at its 248th and 249th meetings (see CRPD/C/SR.248 and 249), held on 7 and 8 April 2016, respectively, and adopted the following concluding observations at its 262nd meeting, held on 18 April 2016.

2. The Committee welcomes the initial report of the State party, which was prepared in accordance with the Committee's reporting guidelines. It also appreciates the State party's written replies (CRPD/C/UGA/Q/1/Add.1) to the list of issues prepared by the Committee (CRPD/C/UGA/Q/1).

3. The Committee appreciates the constructive dialogue held during the consideration of the report and commends the State party for its high-level delegation.

##### II. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including the reservation of five seats to persons with disabilities in Parliament, and the provision of a special grant for persons with disabilities to support income generating activities for persons with disabilities.

##### III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

###### A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1-4)

5. The Committee is concerned about the varying definitions of disability throughout its legislation, that legislation and policies are not in line with the Convention, and the delay in the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Bill (2014) as well as of several bills that would advance the rights of persons with disabilities enshrined in the Convention. It also notes with concern that derogatory language against persons with disabilities persist in legislation and policies of the State party, such as the terms "unsound mind" and "lunacy".

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\* Adopted by the Committee at its fifteenth session (29 March-21 April 2016).

6. **The Committee calls upon the State party to:**

(a) **Harmonise definitions of disability in various laws and policies and systematically review all legislation and bring it in line with the Convention;**

(b) **Adopt measures to amend and/or repeal legislation with derogatory terminology against persons with disabilities.**

7. The Committee is concerned about the absence of specific mechanisms to ensure a high level consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities which goes beyond the National Council for Disability. It is also concerned that civil society does not fully participate in processes to enact legislation, and in the discussion and adoption of public policies both at the national and district level, including the involvement of women with disabilities youths, children with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

8. **The Committee recommends that the State party establish high level formal mechanisms to conduct consultation with organizations representing persons with disabilities, systematically and on regular basis, with allocation of budgetary resources, and promote the meaningful participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women with disabilities, youths, children with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.**

## **B. Specific rights (arts. 5-30)**

### **Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)**

9. The Committee is concerned about persisting discrimination against persons with disabilities, including in particular persons with albinism, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and on other grounds such as gender identity and sexual orientation. It is further concerned about insufficient legal remedies to protect them against such discrimination. It is also concerned about the non-recognition of reasonable accommodation in the legislation of the State party and that the work of Equal Opportunities Commission has not made been known widely among persons with disabilities.

10. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Provide for legal protection against disability-based discrimination, multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination facing persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Incorporate the concept of reasonable accommodation in its legislation as defined in article 2 of the Convention and recognise the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination based on disability;**

(c) **Make the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission widely known among persons with disabilities.**

### **Women with disabilities (art. 6)**

11. The Committee is concerned about the multiple forms of discrimination faced by women with disabilities and the absence of measures to prevent and combat different forms of discrimination, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation against them. It is also concerned about the lack of measures for the development, advancement, and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

12. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt a systematic approach to the rights of women and girls with disabilities and mainstream such rights across all laws, policies and programmes and collect data disaggregated by gender and disability;**

(b) **Take specific measures to tackle multiple and intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities in the State party, and particularly women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including through financing, developing and supporting schemes which increase their economic and social independence;**

(c) **Ensure that gender as well as disability policy address the situation of women with disabilities and allocate appropriate human, technical and budgetary resources to promote the development, advancement, and empowerment of women with disabilities.**

#### **Children with disabilities (art. 7)**

13. The Committee notes with concern that legislation and policies fail to provide protection for the rights of children with disabilities. It is also concerned about the absence of information on the situation of deaf children and deafblind children and about measures to ensure their protection and inclusion in society.

14. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Amend the Children's Act in line with the Convention in order to mainstream rights of children with disabilities across all programmes and provide necessary budget and resources for their protection;**

(b) **Adopt measures to include deaf and deafblind girls and boys in all public policies and programmes and that their opinions and views are taken into consideration;**

(c) **Implement measures aimed at promoting the right of children with disabilities to be consulted in all matters of concerning their lives and that they receive assistance appropriate to their age and disability.**

#### **Awareness-raising (art. 8)**

15. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information to sensitize the general public on cultural practices that stigmatize and hinder the development of persons with disabilities to enjoy rights similar to all other persons in society. It is also concerned that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities as well as persons with albinism and deafblind persons are disproportionately affected by stigma which limits their access to education, health and employment.

16. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Increase awareness on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities with the aim to combat disability and gender stereotypes which can lead to discrimination against persons with disabilities among the public in general, and in particular in rural and urban areas, in all aspects covered by the Convention, through the mass media, jingles, workshops and public information campaigns;**

(b) **Ensure that human rights-based training programmes, including those organized by international cooperation are provided for all officials, judiciary, police, health professionals, teachers and social workers in all communities in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities;**

(c) Strengthen efforts to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and deafblind persons and ensure the involvement of their representative organizations in any campaigns aimed at eliminating stigmatization and myths that underpin violence against them;

(d) Raise awareness among members of the Parliament, the executive and judiciary with regard to the Convention and ensure their support in implementing the Committee's Concluding Observations, in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities.

#### **Accessibility (art. 9)**

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The challenges faced by persons with disabilities, both in rural and urban areas, to access transportation and information in accessible formats such as sign language, Braille and easy-read formats for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;

(b) Insufficient resources to implement policies and programmes of government in relation to accessibility, including in the transport sector;

(c) The lack of information and communication technologies at low cost for persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, the lack of regulation for implementation of the Public Control Act and that public procurement requirements do not include accessible standards.

18. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:**

(a) **Adopt an action plan to ensure accessibility to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, technologies and systems, with allocation of resources and time bound framework;**

(b) **Introduce a monitoring mechanism and effective sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards in all areas covered by the Convention, including in the transport sector;**

(c) **Strengthen measures, including public procurement to grant access by persons with disabilities to technologies of information and communication, including by the provision of low cost software and assistive devices for all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;**

(d) **Encourage the banking sector to recruit professional sign language interpreters to assist deaf persons in their banking transactions;**

(e) **Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7.**

#### **Right to life (art. 10) induct**

19. The Committee is concerned about the violations of the right to life of persons with disabilities in some communities where myths abound that disability is a 'curse' leading to harmful consequences to persons with disabilities.

20. **The Committee recommends the State party to raise public awareness on the right to life of persons with disabilities and undertake legal action against perpetrators.**

**Situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)**

21. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of reference to persons with disabilities in the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons and the non-establishment of the Commission on Disaster Preparedness and Management;

(b) The absence of specific provisions for the refugees with disabilities in Northern Uganda through the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP);

(c) The absence of provisions for evacuation of persons with disabilities in emergency situations such as a fire outbreak.

22. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Adopt a national plan to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and to further ensure universal accessibility and disability inclusion at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation;**

**(b) Provide information in accessible formats in all languages used in the State party, including Swahili and indigenous and refugee languages as well as sign language about early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergency;**

**(c) Monitor, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the implementation of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) to ensure the requirements of persons with disabilities in post-conflict districts of Northern Uganda are addressed, including refugees with disabilities;**

**(d) Finalize the draft Uganda National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy, in close consultation with representatives of persons with disabilities to include provisions for identification and support for persons with disabilities, include persons with disabilities in the National Disaster Commission, and consider the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.**

**Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)**

23. The Committee is concerned about legislation in the State party, including the Succession Act (2011), Divorce Act (1904) and the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act (1961) that restrict legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned about the *de facto* guardianship in families of persons with disabilities that deprive persons with disabilities of their ability to make choices in aspects such as marriage and inheritance.

24. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Eliminate formal and/or informal substituted decision-making regimes and replace them with a system of supported decision-making, in line with article 12 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law;**

**(b) Repeal legislation and eliminate practices that allow for deprivation of legal capacity on the basis of disability and adopt measures to prohibit deprivation of legal capacity on customary basis;**

**(c) Raise awareness among persons with disabilities, their families and community members, the judiciary and legislature on supported decision-making and**

**legal capacity of persons with disabilities, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.**

**Access to justice (art. 13)**

25. The Committee is concerned about barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the judicial system as a result of lack of reasonable accommodation and accessibility to court buildings; and prejudices, poverty and lack of general knowledge about disability by the justice sector.

26. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to justice, including by establishing free legal aid for persons with disabilities who claim their rights, and information and communication in accessible formats, including in Braille, tactile, augmentative and alternative formats and the Ugandan sign language;**

(b) **Ensure that the judiciary provides procedural accommodations according to gender and age for persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Conduct regular training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns and information for court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement agents, including the police and prison officials on the duty to provide access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.**

**Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)**

27. The Committee is concerned about the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, according to the provisions in the trial on indictment Act (TIA, 1971) and article 23 (1)(f) of the Constitution.

28. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal all constitutional and legal provisions that provide for forced detention on the basis of impairment and involuntary institutionalization of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Repeal legislative and other provisions that allow for detention of persons with disabilities, and permit indefinite postponement of criminal proceedings while ordering incarceration which unduly discriminate against persons with disabilities and do not allow for fair trial standards on an equal basis with others.**

**Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 15)**

29. The Committee is concerned about the information on inhumane and cruel forced medical treatments, physical and chemical restraints, as well as isolation faced by persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, in psychiatric hospitals. It is also concerned about the absence of measures to ensure that persons with disabilities are enabled to provide their free consent to medical or scientific experimentation. It is further concerned about the absence of monitoring by the National Human Rights Commission of centres where persons with disabilities have been deprived of their liberty.

30. **The Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) Investigate cases of physical ill-treatment, torture, inhumane and degrading treatment and adopt protocols that guarantee full respect of the human rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Review and revise the Mental Health Act to ensure compliance with the Convention; and ensure that the current Mental Health Bill (2014) is in compliance with the Convention;

(c) Ban forced hospitalisation and forced treatment and other non-consensual practices;

(d) Strengthen the legal mandate and the funding of the National Human Rights Commission in order it to be able to comply with its mandate of monitoring the centres where persons with disabilities remain deprived of their liberty.

#### **Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)**

31. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in particular the higher risk of women, girls and boys with disabilities, including deafblind women and children, to face physical and sexual violence both in family settings and in institutions;

(b) Abandonment, malnutrition and exploitation through the use of children with disabilities for begging;

(c) The lack of accessibility of information and services available for women with disabilities, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services and complaint mechanisms;

(d) The absence of monitoring mechanisms of institutions where persons with disabilities have been placed.

32. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt measures to ensure that women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence have access to both accessible services and information, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services, and complaint mechanisms;**

(b) **Implement legislation and a due diligence framework to combat impunity concerning violence, exploitation and abuse through opening investigations and providing for sanctions for perpetrators as well as redress for victims of violence;**

(c) **Provide training to the police, judiciary, health professionals and other interlocutors to communicate and work effectively with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence;**

(d) **Set up an independent mechanism to monitor the conditions in all facilities designed to serve persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.**

#### **Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)**

33. The Committee observes with concern harmful practices and sexual abuse of women with disabilities based on harmful stereotypes that consider women with disabilities asexual and pure and that sexual intercourse with them might cure HIV/AIDS.

34. **The Committee calls upon the State party to:**

(a) **Adopt measures including a clear public statement and campaigns to end harmful practices against women with disabilities, and prosecute perpetrators;**

**(b) Adopt a strategy that includes community associations and organizations of women with disabilities to raise awareness about their rights and dignity and inform victims about available protection mechanisms.**

35. The Committee is concerned about laws that allow for forced medical treatment on persons with disabilities and likewise practices. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM).

**36. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all laws and practices allowing or perpetuating forced treatment of persons with disabilities. It recommends that the State party develops alternative modes of medical treatment which respect the dignity, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party criminalizes the practice of female genital mutilation.**

#### **Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)**

37. The Committee expresses concern about the legislation on immigration that denies the acquisition of dual citizenship to persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities. It is also concerned about the low level of registration of children with disabilities at birth.

**38. The Committee recommends the State party to:**

**(a) Repeal provisions in the Citizenship and Immigration Control Act (2009) and the Immigration Act (1970) that restricts the right to movement and liberty and acquisition of citizenship of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;**

**(b) Ensure registration of all children with disabilities.**

#### **Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)**

39. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of institutionalization of persons with disabilities and the absence of community support services that provide for inclusion of persons with disability in society. It is further concerned about the marginalization of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, from everyday life due to lack of provision of essential services.

**40. The Committee recommends that State party:**

**(a) Adopt a strategy for the de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities, within a timeframe and indicators;**

**(b) Provide essential community-based services, including accessibility to education, health and employment and accommodation, personal assistance to guarantee independent living for persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;**

**(c) Provide grants to persons with disabilities to facilitate independent living in the community covering support for assistive devices, guides, sign language interpreters and affordable skincare protection for persons with albinism.**

#### **Personal Mobility (Art. 20)**

41. The Committee is concerned about barriers hindering personal mobility of persons with disabilities.

**42. The Committee recommends the State party to expedite the enactment of the draft Rehabilitation and Health Care policy on disability, in line with the Convention**

**and ensure all appropriate provisions and public budget for mobility requirements of persons with disabilities.**

**Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)**

43. The Committee is concerned about lack of public information in Braille, lack of sign language interpreters, the non-recognition of Ugandan sign language as legally enforceable, the lack of trained teachers in sign language, tactile, easy-read and Braille to make it beneficial to persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the inaccessibility of websites, the absence of easy-read information and inability of television stations to provide information in accessible formats for deaf persons and persons with visual impairments.

44. **The Committee recommends the State party to:**

(a) **Take measures to recognize Ugandan sign language as an official language with enforceable duties in the State party, improve access to information through inter-alia brailling of public information, increasing the number of sign language interpreters and recognizing that deaf persons have a substantive right to use Ugandan sign language as an official language, train teachers in sign language, tactile communication, Braille and easy-read;**

(b) **Require television stations to provide news and programmes of national importance in accessible formats, in particular for deaf persons.**

(c) **Ensure that government websites and websites targeting the public are accessible to persons who require easy-read texts, and ensure that owners and designers of websites to ensure that the websites are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly persons with visual impairment;**

(d) **Invest significant resources into training of sign language interpreters and introduce a certification system to ensure greater availability particularly in rural areas and enhanced quality of sign language interpretation in public services as well as develop a sign language dictionary.**

**Respect for privacy (art. 22)**

45. The Committee is concerned about the lack of provision of sign language interpreters and information in accessible formats in the health services and the banking sectors.

46. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the protection of personal data of persons with disabilities in protocols in the health and banking services.**

**Respect for home and the family (Art. 23)**

47. The Committee is concerned about the legislation that infringes the right to marry of persons with disabilities, such as the Divorce Act (1904) and the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act (1961). It is further concerned about the absence of information on sexual and reproductive health and family planning for persons with disabilities due to lack of accessible formats, means and modes of information, negative attitudes, myths and stereotypes against them.

48. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal discriminatory provisions of the Marriage and Divorce Act and guarantee persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, regardless of their legal capacity status, the right to marry and to adopt on an equal basis with others;**

(b) Enact legislation which prohibits a child being separated from their parents on the basis of the disability of either the child or one or both of the parents;

(c) Ensure support to families with persons with disabilities to raise their children at home;

(d) Ensure access to information, in appropriate formats, to persons with disabilities on sexual and reproductive health and family planning.

#### **Education (art. 24)**

##### **49. The Committee is concerned about:**

(a) The promotion of segregated education institutions in the State party over an Inclusive Education system;

(b) Lack of adequately-trained teachers to promote Inclusive Education at all levels of the education system;

(c) Inability of schools to meet the accessibility requirements of children with disabilities and the in-admission of children with severe disabilities;

(d) Absence of statistical data on learners with disabilities disaggregated by age, gender and disability type.

##### **50. The Committee recommends the State party to:**

(a) Expedite action and establish a timeframe for the transition process from segregated to inclusive education and ensure that budgetary, technical and professional resources are available to complete the process and collect disaggregated data on the advancement of the inclusive education system;

(b) Ensure the accessibility to schools facilities for all students with disabilities, including deafblind children and provide materials and curricula adequate to their requirements and generally take measures to prevent in-admission of children with disabilities at the education system;

(c) Undertake measures, including by encouraging public/private partnerships to ensure the provision of individualized accessible ICTs and assistive technologies in education;

(d) Undertake a comprehensive review of the teacher training curriculum at all levels of education and provide mandatory training on inclusive education in core curricula of teachers both pre- and in-service to provide for disability awareness, inclusive education pedagogy, sign language, Braille, easy read, and tactile training for all professionals;

(e) Develop disaggregated database on learners with disabilities to identify and provide specific learning aids;

(f) Pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 4, targets 4.5 and 4(a).

#### **Health (art. 25)**

51. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on accessible health care facilities for persons with disabilities, the absence of measures to ensure that information and services on sexual and reproductive rights are accessible. It is also concerned about the non-inclusion of persons with albinism in the State party's Cancer policy denying them access to skin cancer treatment to prevent skin damage as well as the non-availability of

essential drugs for persons with mental health conditions in health centres across the country, especially in rural areas.

52. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Provide mandatory training on the rights of persons with disabilities to all health care staff;**

(b) **Train and recruit professional guides and sign language interpreters to assist persons with disabilities in health centres;**

(c) **Include persons with albinism in the State party's Cancer policy and ensure the availability of essential drugs for persons with mental health conditions in health centres across the country, including those of level II, especially in rural areas;**

(d) **Adopt measures to ensure that all education, information, healthcare and services relating to sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and STI's, including treatment, advice and counselling, are made accessible to persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities in age-appropriate formats in both urban and rural areas.**

#### **Right to work and employment (art. 27)**

53. The Committee is concerned about the few opportunities open for employment for persons with disabilities in particular youths and women with disabilities as well as the dismissal of persons who acquire an impairment in the course of their employment. It is also concerned about the lack of provisions to ensure persons with disabilities have equal pay for work of equal value.

54. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt a strategy and incentive measures to facilitate access to the open labour market to persons with disabilities, in particular youth and women, including through the provision of training, and accessible information on job vacancies; and ensure that persons with disabilities receive equal pay for work of equal value;**

(b) **Take measures to ensure accessible and adapted workplaces in the open labour market, including provision of reasonable accommodation regardless of disability;**

(c) **Pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 8, target 8.5.**

#### **Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)**

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures and specific schemes to provide social protection for persons with disabilities in employment and out of employment. It is also concerned about the lack of coverage of the national health insurance in relation to persons with disabilities.

56. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Provide social protection schemes to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, and develop and implement compensation schemes for persons with disabilities to meet disability-related extra expenses incurred, e.g., for assistive devices, technologies and personal assistance;**

(b) **Include persons with disabilities into relevant social and health insurance schemes;**

**(c) Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 10, target 10.2.**

**Participation in political and public life (art. 29)**

57. The Committee is concerned about the restrictions in the Constitution and the electoral law that prevent persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, thus discriminating against them and preventing them from standing for elections; it is also concerned about the inaccessibility of the voting environment and absence of electoral materials in accessible formats and the absence of secrecy in the voting process by persons with disabilities.

58. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Repeal discriminatory legal provisions that restrict persons with disabilities from exercising their right to stand for elections;**

**(b) Provide voter education and awareness to persons with disabilities and adopt measures to ensure that the electoral process is accessible to voters with disabilities including voter registration, accessible polling centres and materials and assistance to vote by persons of their choice;**

**(c) Inform persons with disabilities on their right to vote, provide financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities to conduct the election processes of persons with disabilities in a transparent manner.**

**Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (art. 30)**

59. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

60. **The Committee recommends the State party to take all necessary steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.**

**C. Special obligations (arts. 31-33)**

**Statistics and data collection (art. 31)**

61. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systems to collect information on the situation of persons with disabilities, including refugees.

62. **The Committee recommends that:**

**(a) The State party systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data about persons with disabilities and the barriers they face;**

**(b) Pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 17, target 17.18.**

**International cooperation (art. 32)**

63. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights as enshrined in the Convention in the National implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the Committee observes that organisations of persons with disabilities have not been consulted in the design of international cooperation projects and programmes.

64. **The Committee recommends that disability rights, as enshrined in the Convention, are mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, and these processes are undertaken in close cooperation and involvement with organisations of persons with disabilities.**

#### **National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)**

65. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a strategy on the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to coordinate public policies in all areas covered by the Convention and that focal points have not been designated across all branches of the government. It is also concerned about the insufficient resources given to the Uganda Human Rights Commission to fulfil its obligations as an independent monitoring body. It is further concerned at the absence of specific mechanisms for the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities and civil society in the entire process of monitoring the Convention, as set out in article 33 (3) of the Convention.

66. **The Committee recommends the State party to:**

(a) **Expedite the process of appointing focal points within ministries and other government bodies, with sufficient funding, to enhance implementation of the provisions of the Convention and ensure accountability of government departments to mainstream rights of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Strengthen the capacity of the Uganda Human Rights Commission with sufficient budgetary allocation and human resources to fulfil its mandate effectively and ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the monitoring process, including by providing the necessary funding.**

#### **Cooperation and technical assistance**

67. Under article 37 of the Convention, the Committee can provide technical guidance to the State party on any queries addressed to the experts via the secretariat. The State party can also seek technical assistance from United Nations specialized agencies with offices in the country or the region.

#### **Follow-up and Dissemination**

68. The Committee requests that the State party provide, within 12 months and in accordance with article 35 (2) of the Convention, information on the measures taken to implement the Committee's recommendations as set forth in paragraphs 8 and 52 above.

69. The Committee also requests that the State party implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Government and parliament, officials in relevant ministries, local authorities, organisations of persons with disabilities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies.

70. The Committee strongly encourages the State party to involve civil society organisations, in particular organisations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its periodic report.

#### **Next report**

71. The Committee requests that the State party submit its combined second, third and fourth reports by no later than 25 October 2022, and include therein information on the implementation of the present concluding observations. The Committee invites the State

party to consider submitting the above-mentioned reports under the Committee's simplified reporting procedure, according to which the Committee prepares a list of issues at least one year prior to the due date set for the report/combined reports of a State party. The replies of a State party to such a list of issues constitute its next report.

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