



STATEMENT

BY

**DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, PROFESSOR
HLENGIWE MKHIZE**

**AT THE 14TH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON
THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**UNITED NATIONS
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**VERSION DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER WITH
HER INPUTS**

Chairperson,

South Africa appreciates the opportunity to participate in the 14th Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The theme: ***“Building back better: COVID-19 response and recovery; Meeting the needs, realizing the rights and addressing the socio-economic impacts on persons with disabilities”*** resonates well with South Africa’s immediate priorities in its response to COVID-19.

Our domestic and foreign policies are in line with the values enshrined in our Constitution on inclusivity. Furthermore, South Africa would like to reiterate its commitments to implement the requirements of the UN CRPD and its Optional Protocol.

The Disability Rights Legislation meant to domesticate the CRPD is expected to be finalised by 2024. Our obligation to solicit responses for the UN CRPD Committee's concluding observations is currently underway. A Country Report will be submitted by the stipulated deadline in 2022.

Chairperson,

South Africa advocates for inclusive access to Education, Health, Transport and Employment. Our inclusive design principle guarantees that we domesticate various policy instruments and guidelines on disability inclusion issued by the World Health Organisations (WHO) and other international disability bodies.

In partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) in South Africa, we have concluded a research study on the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Persons with Disabilities in March 2021.

The recommendations of the research study calls for government institutions and society to prioritise the socio-economic status and inclusion of persons with disabilities in planning, design, and budgeting interventions.

The recommendations emphasises that persons with disabilities must be prioritised at the centre of national disaster management and government's programme of economic recovery and reconstruction as contributors and beneficiaries.

Chairperson,

The South African delegation looks forward to collaboratively working with other Member States to ensure a successful outcome to this year's deliberations which is centred around universal design and access, with the goal of *leaving no-one behind*.

I thank you.