



Ministry of Health and Social  
Protection of Population of  
the Republic of Tajikistan



NATIONAL UNION OF PEOPLE  
WITH DISABILITIES OF TAJIKISTAN



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Swiss Confederation  
Конфедератсия Швейцария



Ulkoministeriö  
Utrikesministeriet  
Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland



# INCLUSIVE SOCIETY



**Steps of the Republic of Tajikistan towards Ratification  
of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:  
Achievements and Future Prospects**

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## Disclaimer

Opinions and suggestions expressed in the journal "Inclusive Society" are solely those of the authors and interviewees and do not necessarily reflect the official position of United Nation Development Programme in Tajikistan.

## Dear reader!

My friend, you are holding one of our first publication in your hand, and I hope not the last one. I apologize that I have immediately befriended you by referring to you as "My friend" instead of "Sir/Madam"! The reason is my belief that you are not only a reader, but also a close friend of mine, who is ready to stand by us at any time and support us when needed. It is difficult to live without mutual support in today's world, and I, or rather we, are also ready to stand next to you and provide our support.

By opening this journal you probably think that this journal will again provide lot of information about the challenges of people with disabilities. But dear reader, I assure you that it is not the real aim of the journal. By publishing this journal, we want to show that in spite of challenges there are also achievements in our dear homeland — Tajikistan. We are proud of these achievements and believe that the situation will improve significantly in the future.

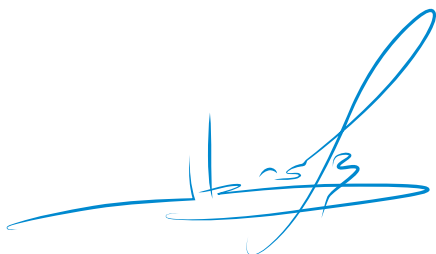
While reading this journal, you will learn that the movement of people with disabilities has achieved many milestones to eliminate stereotypes and through this dedicated work we want to be accepted by society, as well as to achieve situation, when the state and people understand that we are also similar to others and an integral part of society having all rights. Of course, our abilities are not equal, but it is not crucial and together we can change the situation.

Dear reader! Personal attitude, understanding of you and similar persons creates a positive vibe and a good attitude of the whole society. You and I understand that despite equal rights and opportunities, we are not able to achieve our goals if we do not feel the society's proper and modern attitude to us.

Talking of disability issues people usually tend to refer to us as: people with disabilities, persons with disabilities, disabled people, disabled men, etc.

It is important that the word "People — Person — Human Being" comes first and this is enough for us not only to live together, but also to live with dignity.

We sincerely thank you and the entire society for being with us!



**Asadullo ZIKRIKHUOEV**

Chairman of the National Union  
of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan



# Foreword

We are very glad that UNDP has implemented a number of initiatives with the generous support of the Governments of Finland and Switzerland to improve the life of women and persons with disabilities in Tajikistan.

Since 2014, UNDP has been implementing the Project on Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights to Empower People in Tajikistan. Now the project is in its third phase. During these 7 years of work we have been extensively working with the Government of the Republic Tajikistan and several civil society organizations to promote the rights of people with disabilities.

The content of this publication is presenting not only the achievements, but also the expectations of people with disabilities that have been actively involved in the implementation of the project over several years.

This project has been instrumental for the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities in Tajikistan. Through the project, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan was supported in the process of joining the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

In addition, after the signature of the CRPD by the President of Tajikistan, UNDP supported the Government and CSOs in the development of the National Action Plan on ratification and implementation of the CRPD, as well as the State Programme on Accessible Environment for 2021–2025.

We have also supported the establishment of the Public Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Majlisi Namoyandagon (Lower Chamber) of the Majlisi Oli (Parliament) of the Republic of Tajikistan. In addition, we supported the establishment of the institution of the public advisor representing the interests of people with disabilities in local executive authorities (hukumats).

UNDP contributes to the public awareness on CRPD and provision of free legal aid to vulnerable groups of population, particularly women and people with disabilities through public lawyers in 34 districts and towns of the country. During the project implementation, more than 26 000 persons (including 1 647 persons with disabilities) received information about their rights. In addition, 2 900 persons with disabilities were covered by information sessions on vital legal issues, and 16 000 persons (including 1 026 persons with disabilities) received free legal aid.

Along with this, UNDP supports several organizations of peoples with disabilities to promote the rights of persons with disabilities through various policy dialogue platforms, including the annual National Forum on Rule of Law in Tajikistan.



**Lenni Montiel, Resident Representative, UNDP Tajikistan**

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UNDP is committed to promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable development in Tajikistan and contribute to improving the life of all the people with disabilities in Tajikistan. We are actively working to make the disability agenda as strong as possible and remain committed to a meaningful collaboration with all stakeholders. We hope that our contribution will help ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to services and a voice in the society, so that they can achieve their fullest potential. This is a part of our commitment to leave no one behind in our efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

I thank all our partners for their contributions to Tajikistan. I firmly believe that this publication will be a helpful source and a valuable reference for all those working to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in Tajikistan.

**Lenni MONTIEL**

Resident Representative,  
UNDP Tajikistan

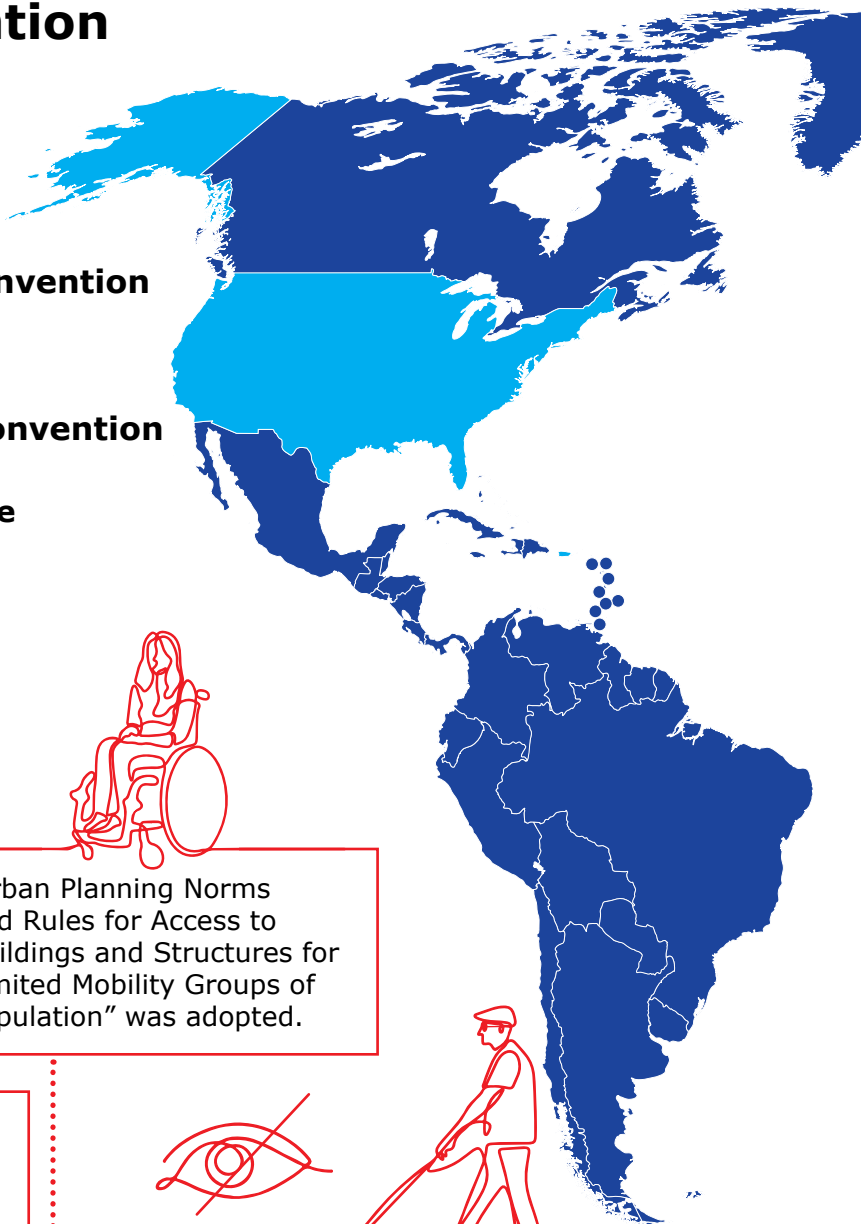
# World map of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

To date March 29, 2022

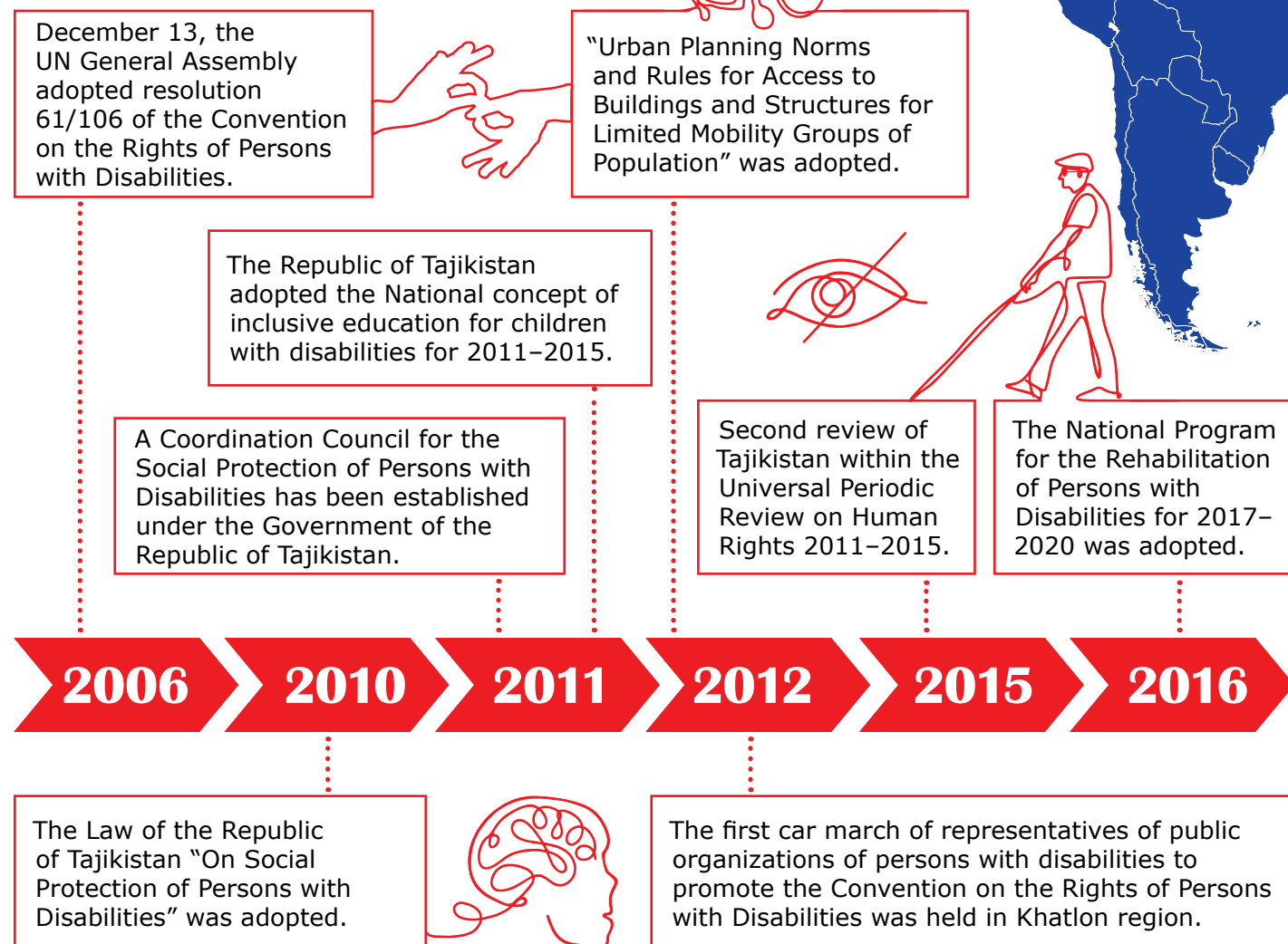
- 185 countries have ratified the Convention
- 8 countries, including Tajikistan, signed the Convention
- 5 countries have not signed the Convention

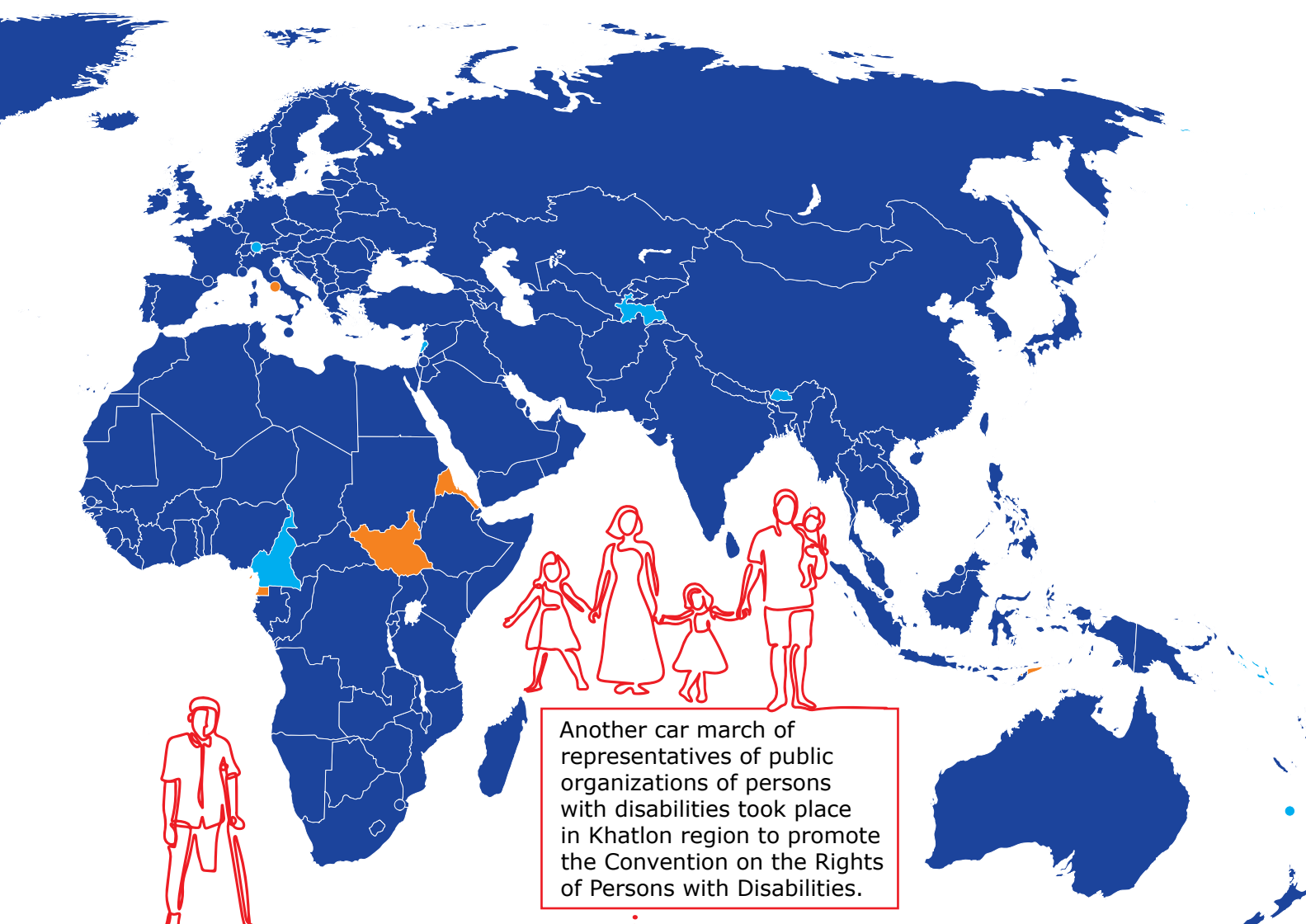


Source: UN Human Rights Office  
<https://indicators.ohchr.org/>



## Tajikistan steps towards ratification of the Convention





Another car march of representatives of public organizations of persons with disabilities took place in Khatlon region to promote the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon at the UN in New York, USA.

The first National Congress of Persons with Disabilities to promote the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held.

A car march of public organizations of persons with disabilities took place in Sughd region.

Third review of Tajikistan within the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights for 2016–2021.



In Sughd region, a car march was held by public organizations of persons with disabilities to promote the Convention.

National Plan of Action to prepare the Republic of Tajikistan for ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was accepted. It is planned to implement its activities until the end of 2024.

The State Program "Accessible Environment" for 2021–2025 has been adopted.



## Fulfillment of obligations enhances the prestige of Tajikistan

**Exclusive interview with Shodikhon Jamshed, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan.**

— **On March 22, 2018, Tajikistan joined the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. What needs to be done in the country before the approval or ratification of this international document?**

— The Republic of Tajikistan, as a full member of the United Nations and a law-based, democratic state is strengthening its position in the

international arena year by year. The launch of the next initiative of the Republic of Tajikistan on the International Decade of Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018–2028 at the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, and the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Founder of Peace and National Unity — the Leader of the Nation, the





**President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, during the ceremony of signing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities, New York city, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.**

President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon on its sidelines is proof of these statements. The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2006 and entered into force in May 2008.

This document covers all aspects of the life of persons with disabilities, including equality before the law and prohibition of discrimination, right to life, freedom from torture, exploitation, violence and cruel treatment, respect for physical and mental integrity, freedom of movement and citizenship, freedom of expression and opinion, access to information, the right to privacy, education, health, labour and other rights of people with disabilities.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed by the President of Tajikistan on the occasion of the International Nowruz Day — March 22, 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA. The signing of this Convention is a logical continuation of the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in this area, as prior to this, a number of necessary activities have been completed to bring the national legislation in line with the provisions of this international document, and its signing was envisaged in national

action plans aimed at fulfilling the recommendations of the relevant UN committees.

During this process, in 2010, the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Social Protection of People with Disabilities" and in 2012, the Urban Planning Code of the Republic of Tajikistan were adopted. The rights of persons with disabilities are also regulated by other national acts, including the Labour Code, the Family Code, the Health Code, the Laws of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Education", "On the Rights of the Child", etc.

In addition, the National Concept for Inclusive Education of Children with Disabilities for 2011–2015 was adopted in order to create favorable conditions in the field of education in the Republic of Tajikistan, and its implementation for subsequent years was approved and continues to this day. Adaptation of public transport and infrastructure to the needs of people with disabilities is expanding in the country year by year.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan adopted the "National Programme for the Rehabilitation of the People with Disabilities for 2017–2020" in 2016 in order to restore the physical and mental health of people with disabilities. This

programme has social and anti-crisis features, and its implementation was ensured taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations until 2030 and will be continued in the following years.

Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities obliges States Parties to take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.

The signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities obliges us to make a valuable contribution to facilitating the fulfillment of the obligations of the Republic of Tajikistan and further enhancing its image in the international arena.

— **“National Action Plan on the Preparation of the Republic of Tajikistan for Ratification and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” was adopted by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No.116, of February 27, 2020. What kind of cooperation is envisaged with civil society organizations of persons with disabilities for the implementation of its activities? In addition to budget funds, will financial support and technical assistance from international organizations be used?**

— The National Action Plan on the Preparation of the Republic of Tajikistan for Ratification and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was developed in accordance with Article 16 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan”, Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Social Protection of the People with Disabilities”, as well as for the implementation of the National Action Plan on the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council member states according to the procedures of the Universal Periodic Review (second round) for 2017–2020, which was approved by order of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 901, of June 7, 2017.

The national action plan is the political will of the Republic of Tajikistan as a full-fledged member of the international community — a member of the United Nations, and contributes to the gradual preparation of the appropriate socio-economic basis for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The National Plan has legal and social features, and its implementation is planned taking into account the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, as well as the National Development Strategy

of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030. The activities of this document are aimed at strengthening the rights of persons with disabilities and changing the attitude towards them in the light of the Convention.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan has created an interagency working group for the implementation of the National Action Plan and has undertaken the following activities:

Amendments and additions have been introduced to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the Social Protection of People with Disabilities”, and they have been approved in accordance with the principles of the implementation of rights and benefits of people with disabilities. At the same time, in order to bring the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the Social Protection of the People with Disabilities” in line with the Convention, the Ministry developed a draft Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Approval of the Procedure for Reimbursement of Expenses of Persons with Disabilities for Urban, District, Inter-District Public Transport and the Procedure for the Preferential Use of the Railway and Air Transport by People with Disabilities”, which was sent to the relevant ministries and agencies for approval.

Within the framework of the activity of the interagency working group under the coordination of the Human Rights Guarantees Department of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan that leads the working group, the Ministry and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan established a technical sub-group to review the norms and provisions of more than 10 national legislative acts in the area of their compliance with the provisions of the Convention and made a list of laws that should be amended in 2022.

It should be noted that United Nations Development Programme supports the activities of the interagency working group, and close cooperation is ongoing. Based on Article 28 of the Health Code of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Ministry developed the “Guideline for Medical and Social Examination” in a new edition titled “Procedure for Medical and Social Examination” and is currently under review by relevant ministries and agencies. At the same time, cooperation is underway between National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan and the Committee on Social, Family and Health Care Issues of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan to establish a public committee (or council) on the rights of people with disabilities under the parliament of the country.



In order to introduce the principle of personal responsibility among people with disabilities and their family members for self-sufficiency and rational use of the labour force by people with disabilities and their family members, the Ministry together with the National Union of the Deaf and Blind, the "Union of Chernobyl Liquidators", the Organization of Women with Disabilities "Ishtirok" and other civil society organizations working in the field of ensuring the rights and interests of people with disabilities, held a number of awareness-raising campaigns.

These events have been held over the past two years in Khorugh, Bokhtar, Khujand and Rasht with the participation of representatives of civil society organizations, heads of cities and districts and relevant divisions of ministries and agencies in the field.

At the same time, a round table was organized and conducted in Tajikistan on the occasion of the Day of Persons with Disabilities on July 8, 2021, which was attended by representatives of state bodies at the level of heads of departments and heads and members of disabled people's organizations (DPOs) from districts and towns of the country. In addition to information on the activities of state bodies, international organizations and CSOs working in the field of support of persons with disabilities, the issues related to the creation of favorable conditions for their employment, social entrepreneurship, inclusive education and access to education for girls and women with disabilities, as well as identifying the problems of people with disabilities and their solutions were widely discussed.

The issue of prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in the country occupies a special place, considering the items of the National

Action Plan. At present, certain activities have been completed in this area in the framework of the "Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and Injuries in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2013–2023", approved by Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 676, of December 3, 2012.

In order to achieve the ultimate goals and effective implementation of the Strategy and taking into account the completion of a number of national programmes, a sectoral action plan on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular, cancer, endocrinological diseases, occupational diseases, injuries and other non-communicable diseases is annually developed with the agreement and approval of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, and it is currently being implemented.

One of the main areas of the above-mentioned Strategy is sectoral plans on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases, raising public awareness on risk factors, proper nutrition, physical activity and formation of a healthy lifestyle. Sectoral specialists regularly develop programmes and reports in the media, including periodicals, television and radio, and present them to the population.

It should be noted that along with budget funds, the funds of development partners are also attracted for the implementation of the "National Action Plan on the Preparation of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Ratification and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities". The role of the UNDP, World Health Organization, branch of Caritas Germany in Tajikistan, UNICEF, branch of GOPA mbH in the Republic of Tajikistan, Japan Agency for International Cooperation, and Agency for International Cooperation of Turkey is significant in this process. Implementation of the relevant points of this Plan is ensured through the technical support of development partners.

— **How is the social protection of people with disabilities ensured in the country? What is the current situation with the implementation of the State Programme on Accessible Environment for 2021–2025, adopted by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 52, of February 27, 2021? What are the key achievements and challenges?**

— According to the provisions of the Convention, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications and other facilities and services open or provided to the public. Within the framework of this

provision, the Action Plan for the implementation of the State Programme on Accessible Environment for 2021–2025 was adopted, which consists of 4 sections, 26 paragraphs and 29 sub paragraphs. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan is responsible for 14 out of 26 paragraphs, and in the implementation of 7 of which the Ministry is the main implementing party.

The main goal of adoption of the Programme is to solve existing problems in the field of accessible environment, including the accessibility of buildings, roads, transport and other facilities, educational, healthcare, social protection institutions, workplaces, information, communications, electronic and emergency services.

In order to implement this provision, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and authorized state bodies have taken a number of necessary measures and certain activities have been completed.

Development of social support measures for people with disabilities and creation of equal opportunities for participation of people with disabilities in public life and improving their living standard occupies a special place in the State Programme on Accessible Environment for 2021–2025. Creating an accessible life environment for people with disabilities is one of the main areas of public policy. Its practical results will provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities along with other citizens in all spheres of life.



The main purpose of this programme is primarily to create an accessible environment for people with disabilities. The medium-term programme will ensure centralized organizational and financial resources and an integrated approach to solving the problem of integration and socialization of people with disabilities. Its implementation will ensure the

access of people with disabilities to social, transport, engineering and service infrastructure, and thus improving level and quality of their life.

In order to create conditions for the realization of basic educational and social rights, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population periodically introduce relevant requirements into the practice of subordinate agencies and develop new forms of social services for children with disabilities in daycare centers. In this regard, the role of local structures of ministries and agencies of the republic operating at the city and district levels is very high, and understanding the nature and content of the Programme by them is very important.

Currently, psychological-medical-pedagogical consultation centers are functioning in Dushanbe city, Khujand and Isfara of Sughd region and Bokhtar city of Khatlon region, where a wide range of social workers and specialist-teachers work with various issues of child development.

It is necessary to expand the role of CSOs and parents in creating an accessible environment for children with disabilities. The opportunities for their socialization through the implementation of various actions and types of creative activities are not provided adequately. There is a lack of awareness among the population about the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities in the public and educational spheres.

In this regard, one of the tasks of the relevant structures of regions, cities and districts is to take practical measures to create an accessible environment for people with disabilities in priority areas of social, transport and engineering infrastructure, including:

1) adaptation of the territorial facilities of social protection, social service institutions, employment agencies, educational, healthcare, cultural institutions, as well as its adjoining territories for unimpeded access for persons with disabilities, taking into account their special needs and services, including:

— organization and equipping special spaces for parking and more comfortable places with additional space aside and in front of the buildings that are suitable for movement in waiting and citizen reception areas;

— equipping buildings with ramps, equipment and other special devices, information boards, call buttons for “assistants”, installing equipment to improve the hearing of people with hearing impairments;



- placement of information points on provision of services for persons with disabilities adapted to their special needs;

- providing the deaf persons with qualified sign language interpreters;

- 2) providing access to sports facilities for persons with musculoskeletal diseases, hearing impairments and the blind;

- 3) training (retraining) of teachers and educators working with people with disabilities;

- 4) ensuring access to the transport for persons with disabilities, taking into account their special needs, including:

- installation of special equipment with LEDs for persons with visual impairments and special voice buttons for persons with hearing impairments in public transport;

- procurement of vehicles with special equipment and components that provide access for people with disabilities;

- 5) equipping pedestrian crossings, public transport stops with a system of synchronous speech and text information (taking into account the traffic schedule), ramps, tactile and contrast surfaces, etc.

- 6) installation of information boards in bus stops with sound notification upon request (call button) about the scheduled time of arrival of buses;

- 7) lowering the ledge curbs of pedestrian crossings to facilitate entry and exit;

- 8) installation of voice traffic lights;

- 9) equipping railway stations, buses, airports and adjoining territories as required;

- 10) organization of TV programmes with roller captions on public TV channels;

- 11) provision of barrier-free access of persons with disabilities to general educational institutions

and vocational educational institutions, taking into account their special needs;

- 12) training of sign language for employees of social institutions to assist deaf persons.

Thus, the implementation of this programme at the level of executive bodies of state power is very important, and in this regard, the contribution of departments and offices of the chairmen of towns and districts and local structures of ministries and departments of the republic operating in towns and districts should be significant.

**— Is there a new system for determining the degree of disability of persons with disabilities and classification of functional abilities of the body? What is the difference from the previous system?**

— In this regard, it should be noted that the State Institution "Research Institute of Medical and Social Examination and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities" within its cooperation with the Federal State Budgetary Institution "Federal Scientific Center for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled named after G. A. Albrecht" of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Russian Federation has planned to develop the International Classification of Functioning (ICF), and the specialists from both sides are continuing this work.

The difference between the document to be developed and the previous system is the fact that according to this classification, not only diseases and defects are taken into account by degree and stage of severity, but also the functions and functional capabilities of the body of a person who has diseases of the liver, kidneys, heart, respiratory tract, eyes, etc. are carefully studied. Citizens, who do not have the opportunity to work regularly due to their illness, receive disability, and the number of such patients is extremely high. On the other hand, a one-handed person or person without one or two fingers, slight paralysis, short leg, etc., is able to work and have the opportunity to work without being isolated from society.

In this regard, in July 2021, an international working meeting was held in Dushanbe with experts from the Russian Federation and Armenia on the topic "Introduction of the International Classification of Functioning in the Republic of Tajikistan" within the framework of the National Action Plan for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The work is ongoing in this area and it is expected that this year the draft document will be submitted to the relevant authorities.

# Female lawyer, who breaks stereotypes and brings innovations

FOTIMA



**Due to her blindness, Fotima Shamsuddinova faced many difficulties during her studies and job looking periods. Due to strong will, passion for learning, efforts in the pursuit of a profession and not considering herself inferior to other people, now she not only has a good job, but with the help of United Nations Development Programme and other partners, she has solved the legal issues of dozens of people with disabilities and has been respected and acknowledged by many.**

## *If Interest Leads...*

Scrolling through Fatima's biography, these verses of Muhammad Iqbal Lahore come to mind: Life is like a diamond in its shell,

*Flaming the heart, but not melting down.*

Fatima has built her personality by making efforts, with higher intelligence. "Nothing is easy in life", she says. "Whatever I want to achieve, I have to work hard. So, every step I make, I consider it a success".

## *Education and Work*

Fatima lost the ability to see at the ninth grade. She studied at school number 37 of the capital city. In 2004, her visual acuity has decreased, and she has been sent to the boarding school for blind and visually impaired children in Hisor town.

She submitted her application to the Law Department of the Tajik National University in 2006. "It was not easy to study full time at that time," recalls Fatima. "I was the only student with a disability in the Law Department. Girls rarely studied at this department and tried to enroll in the pedagogical or medical specialties. The teachers did not know how to deal with a disabled person. Some of them were heartbroken, some considered me a hero and a role model, some of them no longer wanted to put up with the fact that a blind person could also study law. The attitude of the fellow students was not much different from the attitude of the teachers."

But something happened in the first school days, and then the communication stereotypes and barriers disappeared, and everyone understood who Fatima really was.

“Someone put 10 or 20 Tajik somoni in front of me. I was offended. After all, I came to study. I said from the rostrum “The one, who put money, come and get it! I didn’t come here to beg.” Everyone was silent, and no one dared to take money. From that moment on, my classmates treated me with respect, not with the pity.

Until she learned to use computer programmes for the blind, she could not read additional lectures and literature.

"My fellow students read books and lectures aloud and recorded them for me on a tape recorder. I still have cassettes with their voices in my mother's house," said Fatima.

"When you graduate, where will you work?" It was a frequent question asked by some teachers. But she was an excellent student. Fatima's story:

"When I was a fourth year student, I found a civil society organization that provided free legal aid to women. I applied for an internship. To be frank, they were surprised to learn about my disability: "Oh, blind people become singers or musicians. Can they be lawyers?" At first, they said that they did not need an intern, but then they involved me in the working process. They had no experience of



working with people with disabilities, especially the blind. When I gave legal aid to those in need, the staff of the organization did not say a word and listened. They were surprised at how I managed to work and study. The "ice melted" gradually: they taught me how to write an application for a claim and prepare for court hearings. If a person with a disability would come to the office for legal aid, they would tell: "We have a blind girl, and only she can give you the best advice," and thus would refer to me.

From that moment on, I decided to become a defender of the rights of people with disabilities. Because I observed how the law enforcement and judicial authorities treat this segment of society superficially. The lawyers also believed that the problems of this group of people would never end. But for me, the difficulties of their lives, personal problems and tears of joy were a source of happiness and self-improvement."

She was happy to provide persons with disabilities with free legal aid and support.

"Fatima, with this diploma with honors, you should work in a ministry and improve your life, and not suffer trying to help those with disability by going to the courts or other state bodies," some of her fellow students advised her, not fully realizing her happiness.



At last, CSO's representatives wanted to see Fatima in their office. She installed the "Jaws" voice programme on the computer and with its help performed all the tasks of the employer. It was an opportunity to gain additional skills. She says:

"I never thought that I could find a suitable job, because it is not easy for a person with a disability to find a job in our society. Luckily, I didn't have any problems with this. My mother used to say: "Study hard! Then not you, but the job will look for you."

As a legal advisor she reached new heights in her career. She was an active participant and organizer of many trainings and seminars on the rights of people with disabilities, sometimes in the country and sometimes abroad. Her knowledge and skills have increased.

During her first court trial, Fatima defended a fired woman. The case happened a year after graduation in 2011. Since she had previously participated in several court trials as an assistant defense attorney, she did not feel fear of losing the case.

"When I entered the judge's office, he saw me and was surprised how he would conduct court hearing with the participation of the blind lawyer. I wanted to stamp the document with my special seal, but he refused. Instead, he requested a seal of approval. I explained that no documents were issued for this in Tajikistan, and it was not my fault," Fatima said.

The trial ended after three months of judicial proceedings in favor of her client. The judge did not believe that this was her first trial as a lawyer.

"If a person with a disability would not have a lawyer, I would definitely send this person to you," the judge said during the farewell. This was recognition of the intelligence and professionalism of young Fatima.

## *Union of Like-Minded People*

For about 15 years she has been doing what she loves. In 2017, with a group of like-minded people she founded the CSO "Noil" for youth with disabilities, and at the request of the initiators, took over its leadership.

"I got married before the establishment of the organization. After three years of marriage I had no children, which became another test and struggle for me. Today I consider myself the happiest person, because I am the mother of three children and the head of the organization through which I can solve the problems of other people," said Fatima.

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**Since its date of establishment up to 2022, the civil society organization for youth with disabilities "Noil" has implemented five joint projects with the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme and in partnership with the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan.**

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Fatima says: “The main activity of our organization is the provision of free legal aid, protection and promotion of the rights and interests of people with disabilities. Basically, we advise, file claims and refer people with disabilities to one or another state body, including the judiciary, to resolve their legal issues. We also conduct information campaigns in remote districts and towns of the country: Isfara, Spitamen, Asht, Nurobod, Tojikobod, Sangvor, and Dusti. Initially, these campaigns were aimed only at people with disabilities. We observed that campaigns were not only effective for them, but also had a positive impact on people without disabilities. Therefore, since 2018, we have been covering different groups of the society with information campaigns. As our audience expanded, we increasingly rely on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In particular, we discussed the objective of the Convention, the steps taken by Tajikistan, and expectations of the movement of persons with disabilities from the ratification. These activities gave us a good result. For example, a woman asked us a question in Spitamen district:

— Can a person with disability marry and have a family? I want to marry my disabled son, but wherever I go to propose, I get a rejection.

I told her:

— Of course, he can marry. If he feels independent, that is he masters a profession, gets a job, believes that he can provide for his family.

She asked about a profession and a place to study, and left.

Two years later in that district we learned from a mother that her son had mastered a craft, got married, and had one child. I am so happy that my advice has changed a person’s life.

I consulted another family, where spouses had disability, and my practical advice saved the family from falling apart.

There were many such cases. For example, there were many girls with disabilities, who had no education, whose school age has already passed, but they wanted to study. We sent them to the schools of their districts, they received certificates of completion of 11th grade, entered full-time and part-time departments of universities and institutes, and this inspired us a lot.

Or there was a family, where a couple of disabled people did not have children. They wanted to adopt a child, and we helped them in this issue, which is very challenging from legislative perspective. In other words, we were able to prove before the court that this family was fully capable of raising and bringing up a child.”

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**From the beginning of her lawyer’s activity until February 2022, Fatima Shamsuddinova has been involved in 44 civil proceedings, resolving about 30 of them in the favor of her clients. From the beginning of its activity, the Public Organization of youth with disabilities “Noil” provided free legal aid to more than 5500 persons.**

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## *If the Legislation Becomes More Relevant...*

Fatima hopes that people with disabilities would not only know their rights and be respected by other groups of the population, but would also take leadership positions at the highest level in the legislature system, law enforcement bodies, ministries, committees, courts, work in any public body and provide worthy services to society on an equal basis with others. According to her, the best way to achieve this goal is to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She says:

***“ I have been working with the Convention since 2007. I thought that we need more time, because in the past there was a completely different mindset or understanding of disability. But in a short time, the state and the activists of our society managed to change the thinking and public opinion regarding the people with disabilities. Today, starting from kindergarten to the highest authorities, including the parliament and the president himself, there is a positive attitude towards disability. This is encouraging.***



Few years ago, during her trips to Finland and Japan, Fatima observed better conditions and accessibility for people with disabilities.

“I didn’t imagine that such things someday would be happening in Tajikistan. But now I see some progress in our country,” she says with satisfaction.

## Afterword from the Hero:

"I hope that people will perceive a person with a disability not as a weak, helpless person, a person who only needs charitable assistance, but a visionary person and a developer of society. It annoys me a lot when people give them money on the street. Why do they see a poor person or a beggar in our image?! Fortunately, there are few such views now."

From an early age, Fatima had a dream: to become a journalist. This dream has finally come true with the help of the United Nations Development Programme to certain extent.

"We have prepared four TV programmes dedicated to protecting the rights and interests of people with disabilities," said the experienced lawyer. These programmes were recorded and broadcasted by Jahonnamo TV channel.

"Our first programme titled "Suhbati Ruz" was about the UN Convention and the process of its ratification in Tajikistan. As a shower presenter, I conducted an interview with the head of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan, Asadullo Zikrikhudoev,— says Fatima, delighted with the realization of her dream.— It is a pleasure that viewers of "Jahonnamo" TV channel had the opportunity to repeatedly watch this and other shows produced by us in February and March 2022. Tajik users of the Facebook social network can also enjoy the content of these programmes on the page of the Civil Society Organization of Youth with Disabilities "Noil".

Being a presenter did not cause any difficulties for our hero. From adolescence period she used to write various articles that were analyzed and discussed by editors of Radio "Sadoi Dushanbe", mainly by Ziyovuddin Nurzod and Saifullo Bozor.

"We were planning to launch a radio programme for teenagers and I was supposed to be the host. Unfortunately, it was not possible to record this talk show. I used to think that a blind person could only be a radio host and never a TV host. This is a stereotype and a misconception. I do not regret that I am not a journalist, because I was able to fulfill my dream through radio and television programmes, as well as writing and publishing articles," said Fatima.



**The UN Convention and the process of its ratification in Tajikistan**



**The rights of people with disabilities and their opportunities**



**The role of accessible environment in the life of people with disabilities**



**The results of monitoring of state and public buildings and facilities in Dushanbe by a group of young people with disabilities, who previously participated in the training of "Noil" on accessible environment**



ASADULLO



**Public figure  
and lover of life**

**Exclusive interview with the Chairman of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan, Asadullo Zikrikhudoev.**

**— What was the role of organizations of persons with disabilities in Tajikistan in laying foundation for signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?**

— The issue of protecting the rights and interests of persons with disabilities in the international arena has attracted the attention of the international community since the 1980s. In Tajikistan, after gaining state independence, this issue acquired a special status. Thus, the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Social Protection of Disabled Persons” was adopted in 1992. In accordance with article 33 of this law, state bodies and other organizations are obliged to involve public associations of disabled people in the preparation and adoption of decisions related to interests of disabled people.

Civil society organizations of Tajikistan were active not only in the country, but also in the international arena. I remember that since the 2000s, representatives of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan and their partners including the National Union of the Deaf of Tajikistan and the National Union of the Blind of Tajikistan have been actively participating in various world events.

Fortunately, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted. After this important and historic event, disabled people’s organizations of the country and their branches set

the goal of taking effective measures in order to achieve the recognition of this document in Tajikistan. In this regard, a number of various activities were conducted, like meetings and round tables with the participation of government officials and international experts; trainings to improve the legal literacy of persons with disabilities; radio and television programmes on modern understanding of disability, and cultural events and marches under various slogans to promote the Convention and to draw the attention of the state and government to the importance of this issue.

In particular, on January 27, 2017, the leadership of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan proposed to join the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at a meeting of the Public Council under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. The meeting was chaired by H. E. Emomali Rahmon, the Founder of Peace and National Unity — the Leader of the Nation, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. The proposal has not gone unnoticed and a year later, on March 22, 2018, the President signed the Convention in New York.

As the next stage, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan set up a working group consisting of representatives of the relevant state bodies and disabled people’s organizations. As a result of this fruitful cooperation, which lasted a year and a half, on February 27, 2020, the “National Action Plan on Preparation of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Ratification and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” was adopted. The period of mandatory implementation of this plan is scheduled till 2024.





— **Are there any unresolved issues in this area? If yes, how are you going to solve them?**

— The National Action Plan helps to solve the problems of people with disabilities. If 70 percent of this document is implemented, Tajikistan will be ready to ratify the Convention.

The timely implementation of the National Action Plan depends on political will and financial capacity, as well as on a correct understanding of disability issues. There is an obvious lack of funds in the country due to the country's economic situation. At the same time, it is necessary to change the attitude of society towards people with disabilities.

To change the public opinion about people with disabilities, we started cooperation with political parties in Tajikistan. At the same time, the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan has also established a standing working group on the rights of persons with disabilities that includes representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities.

It should be noted that by February 2022, a position of a non-staff advisor from among specialists with disabilities has been established in the local executive bodies of 10 towns and districts of Tajikistan. They offer solutions to the problems of

people with disabilities to local chairmen in their areas. This is a positive experience, but unfortunately, it has not yet been implemented in all towns and districts of the country. We hope that the problem would be addressed by the end of this year.

Within two years since the adoption of the National Action Plan, a working group consisting of representatives of DPOs and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population visited more than 20 towns and districts of the country. We informed the local executive authorities about this Convention; but unfortunately, they do not have full understanding about it in many places. This is not enough for us, but we believe that with support of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and cooperation of development partners, the National Action Plan will be implemented in all regions of the country.

— **What are the main problems faced by persons with disabilities in the regions?**

— The main problem is the economic and social situation of people with disabilities. At the same time, the difficult physical situation of persons with disabilities requires the urgent creation of an accessible environment. Construction of buildings and facilities has increased in all regions of the country, but unfortunately, the needs of people with



disabilities are not taken into account. Although there are construction norms and standards, and State Programme on Accessible Environment for 2021–2025 was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on February 27, 2021, but the proper implementation is not observed.

Local authorities should support CSOs representing people with disabilities in the regions. Nobody asks for money. It is enough to allocate an office or a land plot for its construction, since disabled people's organizations are capable to build their own workspaces. One needs to understand that people with disabilities consider DPOs as their second home. Mayor of Dushanbe city Rustami Emomali managed to do that and not the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan has its own office in the capital city. Why do not other leaders of towns and districts follow the example and do the same?

— **In your opinion, to what extent the rights and interests of people with disabilities are respected in Tajikistan? Do they play a significant role in the socio-political life of the country?**

— If 60% of the legislation is implemented in practice, the situation with respect for rights and interests of people with disabilities will be improved. However, it is pity that the laws remain on paper and are not fully implemented. In my opinion, the solution of the problem should be the creation of a certain system, which will be implemented not based on some considerations, but according to provisions of the law, so that every disabled person can enjoy his benefits and his rights and interests are protected.

If in previous years we only dreamed of participating in political life, since 2016, disabled people's organizations have expanded their activities in this area. Fortunately, this action was also well





received by the authorities. This is evidenced by the active participation of people with disabilities in the political events of 2020, i.e., elections of people's deputies and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. This was the cooperation of disabled people's organizations of the country with the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda that the accessibility of constituencies and polling stations for people with disabilities was considered in these political events.

One of the other achievements was that for the first time one of the activists with disabilities, the President of the National Paralympic Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan, Parviz Bobosharipov, nominated his candidacy in the elections of the local assembly of Shohmansur district. Although he did not win the election, he took the first step. As a result, people with disabilities have gained confidence that they can participate in the political life of the country. We hope that with proper education and political empowerment of young people with disabilities, they have a chance to be elected as dignified members of the parliament.

But at the moment, I cannot say that the participation of people with disabilities in the social and political life of the country is significant. Until now, there is discrimination against citizens with disabilities in the legislation of Tajikistan during the determination of their ability to work. That is, the right of a person with a disability to work is limited.

Despite the fact that the size of the pension increases from time to time — unfortunately, it is not enough for a person with a disability. In this regard, international practice shows that people with disabilities should be given the opportunity to work and earn additional income. However, Article 16 of the Law of the RT "On Public Service" envisages that a pensioner cannot be a civil servant. This is a discrimination against people with disabilities, because they are pensioners under the law.

In recent years, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has been creating opportunities to cover people with disabilities with education. Parents of such children can choose where their child will get education: in general or special secondary educational institution, at home or distance learning. Thus, after completing general secondary education, they can enter the country's higher educational institutions through the examinations of the National Testing Center with an additional 100 points. However, it is difficult for them to find a job, as the disability certificate indicates that they are disabled.

— **What can be done to improve the living conditions of people with disabilities and reduce stigma and discrimination in the society?**

— Currently, all the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, disabled people's organizations and development partners are aimed at full implementation of all activities of the National Action Plan, as they reflect solutions for almost all problems related to people with disabilities. For example, when procuring technical assistive devices (wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, etc.), one should pay attention to their quality and take into account the individual needs of a person with a disability.

Currently, depending on the requirements of the time, it is necessary to develop and adopt the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Rights of Persons with Disabilities". Article 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan states: "Tajikistan is a social state, the policy of which is aimed at providing conditions that ensure dignified life and free human development." Based on this, we propose to revise the structure of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and establish a separate ministry or committee for social protection of the population.

It is also important to consider the following vital issues:



- The national legislation of Tajikistan needs to be brought in line with the provisions of the Convention.
- Children with disabilities should not be excluded from free and compulsory primary or secondary basic education.
- Ensure accessibility of the environment based on the principle of universal design.
- Provide medical and rehabilitation services at the required level.
- Ensure the availability of regular employment.
- Ensure a decent pension.
- Ensure equality, while eliminating stigma and discrimination based on disability.
- Provide an access of people with disabilities to housing.

— **What are the best personal and public achievements of Asadullo Zikrikhudoev?**

— Disability can never be an obstacle for a person in achieving goals. We should love life and never forget to strive towards our goals, because when we achieve our goals, we are satisfied with ourselves.

If we talk about my personal life, then my family and children are the most important and sacred achievements for me. I thank God that I have three children: two sons and a daughter. I hope that they will grow up to be knowledgeable and intelligent and contribute to the development of our beloved Motherland, so that as a father I can be proud of them.

If we talk about public life, then the signing of the Convention by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan is one of my memorable achievements. I am glad that our efforts — representatives of the disabled peoples’ organizations — were not in vain. But this is only the beginning of the path and we should try to achieve the ratification of this document.

As the head of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan, I am grateful for the continued support of the Government of Tajikistan and development partners, including the United Nations Development Programme. Thank you very much. Owing to inclusive support of this reliable partner, our public organization has achieved the following significant results over last 5 years:

- Participation in the preparation and adoption of the “National Action Plan on Preparation of the Republic Tajikistan for the Ratification and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”;

- Contribution to the establishment of a standing working group on the rights of persons with disabilities in the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Participation in the preparation and adoption of the State Programme on Accessible Environment for 2021–2025;
- Analysis of national laws on access of persons with disabilities to justice with relevant recommendations for their improvement;
- Enhancing the knowledge of public lawyers and public assistants on issues of people with disabilities;
- Capacity building of regional disabled people’s organizations;
- Equipping the conference hall of the new office of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan;
- Support to the implementation of activities of the National Action Plan, etc.

“*If Tajikistan ratifies the Convention in the coming years, I personally can be satisfied with results of my more than twenty years of work in the disability movement.*”

— **Are you happy?**

— Yes, I am happy. Not completely, but I am happy. Of course, there are situations that make me sad. For example, I really wanted my parents to be alive and proud of my achievements.

The rest, if there is peace and stability in dear Tajikistan, the existing issues can be resolved at the will of God and over time at the required level.





*FARIDA*



**We want to contribute  
to the development  
of our society**

**Exclusive interview with Farida Alibakhshova, the expert on disability at UN Office in Tajikistan, chairperson of the Disabled People’s Organization – Information and Resource Center “Inclusion” in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. In the beginning, Farida told her inspiring story and mentioned her significant achievements.**

— I was born and grew up in Khorog. At the age of 16 I got disability. The first symptoms of a disease called myopathy did appear at the age of 15. Although the disease was progressing, I started using a wheelchair only when I was 18 years old. In other words, I had the opportunity to successfully graduate from School No. 3, one of the best educational institutions in Khorog. We graduated school in 1992. Unfortunately, a civil war broke out in Tajikistan in the same year. Since I was already wheelchair-user, I could not continue my education due to the physical barriers that existed in society. Until 1995 I was waiting for the end of this situation, but it was not ending. Unfortunately, there are stereotypes in our society and people’s attitude towards disability issues is painful. That is, they believe that if you got a disability, your life is over or you are no longer a living person.

I am a very lucky person, because my mother is a doctor of the highest degree, and my father worked as a manager of a large car station all his life, and they never had such an idea. I have been always guided to move forward and my mother has

always empowered me. In other words, everything that I achieve in my life is of course, firstly, thanks to God’s will, and secondly with the support and efforts of my mother. I am a follower of the Ismaili sect, and in 1995, when Hazir Imam — Aga Khan 4 first visited the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, he gave me his blessing and wished me happiness and health. A flame of hope lit up in my heart. Hope that life goes on, it is not over, since the life without hope and dreams is like a narrow and dark path. That is, you are walking, but you do not know where you are going and when you should arrive. But when a person has a dream, this narrow path immediately becomes clear and you understand what direction you should move to.

My mother has been assuring me that the meaning of my life is to support other people and, most importantly, it is my life mission. She teaches me to share with others the hope that I got 30 years ago.

If I share a small part of my hope to every person with a disability, then, of course, there will be a clear path in his life, a person will discover and develop abilities and reveal the potential, and find a rightful place in society. By other words, they will no longer be a burden for their families and can make a significant contribution to the development of society.

This is my main goal in life — to support people with disabilities, because I have overcome this situation and I know what they are going through. And as I said, I am Ismaili Muslim, and lot of attention is paid to the study of science and knowledge in our madhab. During that visit our Imam said: “Learn English language and thus develop



your culture, since through knowledge and culture you get connected to the outside world." As we live in isolation among the high mountains of Pamir, our knowledge allows us to go to the boundless world and achieve our goals. I got disability during my life. I did very well at school, got good grades, and of course learned English language there. But since it was during Soviet times, we were more interested in learning the Russian language. I knew English language, but improved it at home setting.

The volunteering movement is well developed in Pamir. So, I started supporting children from poor families in my neighborhood by teaching them English. Gradually, the number of my students increased and I became a famous volunteer. When a foreigner rented a house in our neighborhood in Khorog, she wanted to learn Shughni. I was recommended to her as a person who knows English well and can help her to learn Shughni language. She reached me out. Her name was Jeannette Yu — she was the head of a branch of the international organization "Operation Mercy". And I started teaching Shughni language to her. Gradually, all employees of this organization would come to me. The number of my students increased sharply. Then employees of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) also approached me. They also wanted to learn the Shughni language and were looking for a teacher. You know that there were not training materials and literature for learning the Shughni language. Therefore, they could not easily learn this language. I was teaching them all. When my students saw how much I was trying to learn and teach others, they looked for and found a special programme in a university of Canada and paid for it. It was the Global Programme on Disability and Development at Queen's University. I received a higher education though distance learning. I lived in the Pamir and studied in Canada. The diploma was sent by mail.

When I filled out a job application, they wanted to know about the list of subjects that I studied. The head of the programme — the dean of the department wrote in the recommendation that "the academic subjects were very difficult, but Farida succeeded in her study." He gave me a very high

appraisal. It was a programme for professionals. At first, it was difficult for me to study. Some of my fellow students from Canada had already graduated from two universities, and some of them from one university. They also had 10–15 years of work experience. In other words, they had extensive knowledge and experience in disability issues. However, as I have a disability, they have always consulted with me and I was accepted as a disability expert. Having not yet completed this programme, I was invited to work for Handicap International in Tajikistan. They knew that at that time,



unfortunately, no one except me in Tajikistan had international level knowledge in the disability field. And I started working in 2011 as a representative of this organization in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. My work was to build the capacity of disabled people's organizations and organizations of parents of children with disabilities. This continued for four years. I worked for two years and in 2013 I went to the USA as a part of an exchange programme to improve my skills. The knowledge that I received at a Canadian university and later from an internship in Chicago, USA, improved my skills. I wanted to apply all this knowledge in my homeland. There-

fore, I decided to establish a disabled people's organization. Since I had many friends, I succeeded in this activity jointly with them. I thought that first of all it was needed to provide people with disabilities with the necessary information and guide them to a certain direction of their life. The most important thing is to provide information to the people. Information about what services are provided for people with disabilities in Tajikistan. Unfortunately, many people think that after the collapse of the USSR, there are no more benefits and support, and everything is based on fees, but actually this is not true. The state provides annual and even monthly support to people with disabilities within its resources. The state is taking firm steps in this area, but unfortunately, people with disabilities do not have information about that in most cases. They do not know what types of services are available for them and what services are provided to them for free by the state. Our job was informing and guiding people. We were supported

by the Finnish Foundation "Abilis", which worked in partnership with "Ishtirok" organization. Our organization started working in Tajikistan in October 2013. Those who studied with me in America came here and conducted training for us. Our goal is to promote, develop and protect children and adults with disabilities and their families, and we want our interests to be taken into account everywhere in inclusive was. To this end, people with disabilities need support. In other words, their voices should be heard.

— **In your opinion, after signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, what progress has Tajikistan made in the implementation of its provisions? Based on the example of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, describe what measures have been taken and what measures are to be taken in the future?**

— Fortunately, our country joined the Convention in March 2018 and this is an important development for us. By "we", I mean those people who work in the field of promotion of the interests of people with disabilities and providing legal aid to them. Our country is moving in the direction that was chosen by Japan. Under the JICA exchange programme I attended advanced training in Japan in 2015. I also did an internship on the Convention in South Korea in 2019 under the KODDI exchange programme. I also participated in the Summer School in Kazakhstan on the rights of people with disabilities and the Convention. Everyone thinks that solving the problems of inclusion and disability requires a lot of material and financial resources. I don't know why people think that if interests and wishes of people with disabilities are reflected in programmes and laws, it will entail high financial costs at the stage of implementation. The solution is this: even Japan, which has no financial problems, with its huge budgets and powerful technologies, adapted its legislation before the adoption of this Convention, so that it could draft new laws for persons with disabilities on this basis and ensure the protection of their rights in the current laws. There are countries that have not passed the pre-implementation stage of this Convention and have already put it into practice, for example, Turkmenistan. But the legislation was left in its previous form, which creates many problems for them.

Our country is moving in the right direction. Activities are already going on with the regard to preparation of Tajikistan for the ratification of this document, significant changes should be implemented in our legislation. Actually, Tajik legislation



does not differ much from international standards, but minor amendments still need to be made.

We, people with disabilities, are the largest among the world's minorities. Therefore, we want our rights and need to be given due attention. When amending the official document, it should be specifically indicated that women with disabilities should not be subjected to psychological pressure. After all, they are subjected to stigmatization and double discrimination. This is our goal now.

After the signing of the Convention, the situation in our country has been improving significantly, and we are grateful to the President of our country, H. E. Emomali Rahmon, for special attention paid to the problems of people with disabilities and for his support. Even before the signing of the Convention



Tajikistan had progress in this area, but after that the situation improved considerably.

In 2019, with the financial support of the UNDP “Rule of Law and Access to Justice” Project, our public organization implemented the project “Study on Access of People with Disabilities to Services in GBAO”. Under this study we analyzed human rights organizations for people with disabilities, judiciary, courts, police departments and others, and determined to what extent they are accessible for people with disabilities from physical and informational perspective. The physical accessibility of these institutions is important for me as a wheelchair user, but, for example, for the blind or visually impaired people, the provision of information is more important. These institutions should not be limited only by installing a ramp at the entrance to the building, since the accessible environment is a broad concept. The results of the study showed that, unfortunately, 99 percent of physical and information services are not accessible to people with disabilities. And in 2019, the Rule of Law and Access to Justice Project conducted a regional conference. I should mention that the former governor of GBAO Yodgor Faizov facilitated in conducting the study. We presented the results to him and later, thanks to his support, the situation with creating an accessible environment in GBAO got improved significantly. For example, the first floors of all high-rise buildings built after 2019 are accessible to people with disabilities. Unfortunately, there upper floors are not accessible yet. Construction

of ramps is taken into consideration during the construction of new buildings.

Yodgor Faizov instructed the heads of all state structures that if a person with a disability comes to them, irrespective of their status they should come down to the person with disability themselves to avoid situations, where the person has to go up with crutches or a wheelchair to access their services. This task has been completed, that is, these are real steps towards success. But access to information was better even during Soviet times, that is, special signs were installed for people with disabilities. It is no like that now. If such information boards existed, they would be necessary even for people without disability. Of course, after our research there were signs on the back of the doors, but unfortunately, there was no Braille script on them. The voice form of information is neither available anywhere in the region. Another problem we have is that there are no interpreters for deaf and dumb people in GBAO at all. At the same time, this segment of the society faces many difficulties. Suppose, they can write their wish on a piece of paper and give it to an official. However, there are many people among them, who have not even received secondary education and cannot read and write. As a result, this group with disabilities is in informational isolation.

— **What recommendations were made based on the results of the study?**

— The former head of the province recommended that all relevant authorities open an accessible



reception on the ground floor for persons with limited mobility. This proposal would bring relief not only for people with disabilities, but also for the elderly and pregnant women.

Shortly, this programme of us was fully supported and clearly demonstrated the mutually beneficial cooperation of civil society and state organizations. That is, by uniting all these forces — the state, civil society organizations and international support, we can achieve great results. The international community can provide us with funding.

I am a very happy person, because every idea of our organization has always received the full support of the state. I don't remember us going to any chairman or any other structure, where they would give us a harsh answer or reject helping us. They always support us to the best of their ability. Therefore, we are grateful to all state organizations and departments of the region. In other words, owing to this support, the accessible environment and public awareness of the has improved over the past three years.cx

We use puppets to show performances, where we tell about diversity of a body of a person, as well as disability and inclusive education. We organize puppets shows in all kindergartens and secondary schools with the support of relevant state departments of towns, districts and region. Thanks to close cooperation with government authorities, we have achieved many positive results. It is very good if children have information about autism and Down syndrome, why some people use wheelchairs, what Braille is, and what the sign language means. It is very interesting for children. When we show them the sign language alphabet, they become very interested and their relationship with children with disabilities completely changes, artificial barriers are quickly removed and they become friends.

— **Do you want your innovations and proposals to be further supported by the United Nations Development Programme?**

— Programme can have profound impact on society as a whole. What if there are tens of such programmes? We will achieve the desired changes even faster and with better quality. We have well-functioning social workers, but GBAO is very



large in terms of territory. At the same time, each social worker has certain territory to cover with services, even though the population is small. It means that it is difficult for them to reach everybody physically. It would be better if these workers are supported in the form of covering their transportation costs or provision of special transport, or additional staff units are created. We need to solve these problems.

— **Farida, as the UN advisor, what initiatives are you planning to implement?**

— In 2019, a special strategy was adopted during the meeting devoted to the Convention. My task is to integrate it in all areas of the UN activities in Tajikistan and complete its implementation, starting from the programming stage to documentation and implementation. In fact, this strategy can be used not only by the United Nations, but also by any state and civil society organization that wants to implement inclusion in the society.

Another thing is that people with disabilities know their problems better. Therefore, their knowledge should be used at least to solve their own problems by making changes and additions to the legislation and drafting relevant documents.

We want to contribute to the development of our country. For this we need the support of the state and international organizations. If a person is not able to go out of the house, he will never be able to show his intellectual and physical abilities and be useful to society. We want to contribute to the development of our society.

ZAINULLOH



**Disability  
is a privilege  
to me**





**The problems with his legs did not prevent Zainulloh Murodov from being happy. With extraordinary will, he not only has been solving his problems during the 27 years of disability, but for 7 years he has been easing the economic and social problems of dozens of his peers by establishing a public organization and receiving funds from several international organizations. He calls these services not as a service to others, but a factor of his own spiritual pleasure and happiness.**

## Personality

The suffering did not break his will, but gave his body and soul great power to do good things to others. It is not difficult to understand the path he takes: if you want to be successful, be a person!

In the first minutes of our acquaintance, which took place in the house of Zainulloh — in the village of Faizobod, Mir Said Ali Hamadoni district, I was slightly surprised by his calm and tranquil face and smooth movements of his dexterous hands. He quickly understood what was going through my heart.

"I don't have time to be bored," he says quickly with a smile. Every minute of life I have to do something. The family life, thank God, is also healthy and harmonious."

Development of projects, fundraising, creation of jobs for people with physical disabilities, their



economic support, addressing the problems of this people in need, creativity, communication and friendship with some famous intellectuals of the country, daily reading of the Quran and literature, five times worshipping, participation in conferences and training courses in the national and international levels are among his regular activities.

His motto sounds interesting: "There is no meaning in living only for oneself. So, I made a promise to myself that I would spend more time with other people."

Zainulloh's charitable activities have expanded since March 2014, after the establishment of the Disabled People's Organization "Ravonbakhsh" in Mir Said Ali Hamadoni district, which now consists of 192 members.

"Ravonbakhsh" has declared its goal to protect, represent and implement the rights and interests of people with disabilities, support their initiative and entrepreneurship, provide them with jobs and improve their living standards. "Ravonbakhsh's pulse is the same as mine," he said.

A laptop on the chest, a printer, papers and books on both sides of the pillow, a guest reception, a place to eat, and finally, Zainulloh's desk is his bed in his father's hut. But despite these difficulties, he seems to be very satisfied with the profession he has chosen.

"We don't have a large staff. When there is no project, we are satisfied with the state pension and work for free. I get 420 Tajik somoni, that's enough for me, that is, I do not need to make expenditure. I don't need to buy a car, I almost don't need shoes and clothes, I don't think about building a house, I don't need to save money for my daughter's or son's wedding. God freed me from such expenses, so it's a privilege," Zainulloh said.

"Amazing," I said unexpectedly. He added: "I don't think it's a problem to not have walking feet. There are more needy people than me. There are friends who bring zakat (religious tax) of their goods in Ramadan. I distribute all those funds to people whose lives are difficult. I have their list."

Zainulloh remembers every action he has done so far, which are not few:

"We have continuous cooperation with the UNDP in Tajikistan. We have also received the financial support from the Swiss Cooperation Office, the Abilis Foundation of Finland, the German Embassy in Tajikistan and the Alliance of Parents of Children with Disabilities.

We have successfully implemented 8 small and medium projects.

During seven years of our activity we have provided 38 wheelchairs and 9 crutches, as well as

provided assistance to persons with disabilities in the amount of 103 thousand and 730 Tajik somoni through philanthropists, civil society and international organizations.

2568 people benefited from the organization's legal and moral assistance.

Area of activity includes all 8 jamoats of Mir Said Ali Hamadoni district.

Zainulloh proudly mentions the organization's four major projects:

"In 2014, during the first project, 90 women and girls with physical disabilities were trained in sewing. Further, with the support of the UNDP, we brought 16 sewing machines and other necessary equipment. We received orders from factories, hospitals, educational institutions, markets and people. We sew high quality school, medical and market uniforms. Local residents have been applying more for some time now.

On this basis, with the assistance of the Department of Employment and Labour of the district, to date, we have conducted vocational training for 75 women with physical disabilities, who have been provided with both a certificate and a scholarship by the end.

During power outages, our sewing workshop starts working in the evening and works until part

of the night, that is, during the hours of uninterrupted power supply."

Under another project funded by the United Nations Development Programme in 2018, Zainulloh provided beekeeping training for 38 men with physical disabilities. As a result, 120 families of bees and beekeeping equipment were provided to 30 people.

"The condition was that we give each trained family a box of bees," he recalls. — Next year, when they get a harvest, they buy bees and beehives with this money and return the money received from the organization. Then, we give them to another 15 people. In the third year, these 60 bee colonies are taken away from them and kept in one place.

The care of them is entrusted to one person, and the proceeds from the sale of honey are used to buy crutches, wheelchairs, food and other necessities for those members of the organization who cannot practice beekeeping or are bedridden. As a result, each of them received on average up to ten kilograms of honey in the first year..."

— Hello?

Our talk was interrupted by a phone call to Zainulloh.



— Yes, I asked... There is a special ball in Russia. The cost is 700 Tajik somoni per piece. There is a whistle inside this ball, and it has holes. When you hit the ball, a blind person can hear the sound and runs after it. I told my friends to buy it, but they did not send it yet...

Zainulloh's voice and every word are convincing. This manner of speaking of is more characteristic of people who are men of word and deed, do not like boasting and are wary of lies. His interlocutor knew this and did not interrupt him. He spoke little.

"This man is one-handed, but he wrestles with the same hand every Navruz and wins," Zainulloh introduced him to us in absentia.

— We want to create a team of football players with visual impairments."

"If you do this, you will be the first in Khatlon who take this kind of initiative," I said. Zainulloh prefers meaningful silence. Then he apologizes for stopping the beekeeping conversation and concludes:

**“ So, for those families, who could not afford to buy even 1 cup of honey, to receive 10 kg is a great success.**



Ravonbakhsh submitted this project to the Swiss Cooperation Office in 2020 and received support. Since the next project was even larger, they were able to give more, i.e. ten families of bees to new applicants.

"Currently, we have about 50 beekeepers who feed and support 50 households," Zainulloh said.

It does not take too much effort to look after bees. Hence, looking after bees should be a second or third occupation."

In 2019, a pastry shop for eight girls and women with physical disabilities was opened with the funding of the United Nations Development Programme.

"There were many buyers, but the entrepreneur who gave us the building for free soon took it away, and now those women are unemployed," Zainulloh said, adding that he hoped the local executive authorities of the district would find a building for them. We hope that maybe in a month we will hear the long-awaited message.

The phone rings again. The woman was heartbroken and said that had no one to take care of her during the day. Zainulloh advised her to write a letter to the relevant authorities with a request to provide a nurse due to her disability.

Another major project is the construction of a greenhouse on 3.2 acres of land. It was founded by "Abilis" Foundation of Finland in 2016.





“One of my relatives,” Zainulloh said, “allocated 500 acres of land from his farm to our organization. In the first year, we planted 40 lemon trees, including tomatoes, cucumbers, green onions and coriander. Last year we brought another 20 seedlings from Jaihun district. Although growers say that the trees are producing less than last year, we are now looking forward to the harvest. We invite specialists from everywhere; we learn something from the Internet to make our work even better. We noticed that one year it bears a lot and the next year it bears less. Three people work in the greenhouse. The average annual income is 8–10 thousand Tajik somoni.

In the situation, where finding money and finding a job has become a serious problem, they also have working conditions and a satisfactory salary which is next to their home...”

At this time, a woman, who later became known to Zainulloh as a disabled person, called and offered to buy meat from one of her colleagues at a price below the market price: 50 Tajik somoni per kg. “It will be rewarded,” he said. “You may share this with other members of the community.”

## Creativity

He seeks motivation in creativity for the better performance of administrative responsibility and human mission and revival of intellectual energy. There are two well-cut iron bars and a small ladder made of wood and straps attached to it on

the ceiling of the house, to the right of his bed, flowers and other beautiful artificial crafts are on the cupboard, and some copies of his books are in one corner of the bed. And without a doubt, along with his remarkable work activity, all this has led to the fact that his fame is well spread outside Hamadoni district.

— Have you seen them? — Zainulloh points to the flowers and crafts on the top of the cupboard.

— Yes, I saw them coming in, but I thought they were market products.

— No, it is a product of my own imagination and creativity. Since I had a great desire to worship from the very beginning, these things were born. There were over a hundred varieties. I gave them as a gift to everyone. Some of them are over 20 years old. I used to make them from cloth, sweet wrappers and so on. I do not craft anymore now. I was jobless at that time.

— Did you see that? — he points to an iron, a hook and rope, lowered from the ceiling to his chest.

— Yes, I wanted to ask you...

— This is my invention. I called it “Umed (Hope) assistive device.” The end attached to the ceiling, has a roller. I grab onto the rope, get up and slide straight down to my wheelchair. Before this invention, I needed the help of three people to put me to my wheelchair. Now the child simply brings the wheelchair to me and I sit there myself.

I stand up, carefully look at Zainulloh’s invention and with his consent I ask Alisher Primkulov, an experienced photographer and journalist, to take a good picture of “Umed” so that other people in need can build it for themselves.

“Creativity for me is a dose against any piece of depression,” says Zainulloh, passing two books to me.

I read: “Boli Shikasta (Broken Wing)”, publication year: 2012 and “Tarovish (Infiltration)”, publication year: 2013. The author of both books is Zainulloh Murodov.

“After others wrote about me and praised me,” our hero added, “I decided to write about my life experience, education and creativity in order to educate young people.”

In fact, he is very popular and well known among journalists and writers. His strong will, vision, compassion and eloquence were praised by journalists Sul-toni Hamad, Majid Salim, Sayofi Mizrob, Hotami Homid, Haramguli Qodir, Safargul Olimi, Muhiddin Idizoda, Saidamir Valizoda, poets Khairandesh, Alimuhammad Murodi, Alijoni Sarbandi, Jumakhon Murodi, Maghfirat Zohiri, Jamshed Rahimzod and many other creators have described

and sung in their articles and poems, Famous artists of the country Nurullo Abdulloev, Ochai Zika and Bika, Abdusalom Rahimov, Malika Saidova, Rayhona Davlatova and a talented journalist Sharifi Misayzod were and still remain among his supporters and admirers.

This Rubai of Khairandesh, composed 23 years ago, reflects Zainulloh very much:

*Broken, but your healthy mind,  
You are my friend, and I am yours,  
We hope in Almighty Allah,  
May your feet and spine be healthy.*

## *“Have you walked before?”*

I finally had the courage to ask this question. Zainulloh, without frowning, as some people do when recalling the difficult days of the past, speaks freely and narrates in one breath:

“I was a student. I worked at the Textilmash enterprise in Dushanbe. In the winter of 1994, I went to my hometown to visit my parents. In the Olimtoy area, our car suddenly turned over three times and went into a ravine. I woke up in a hospital. I was 25 at that time. After that accident 27 years ago, my legs were replaced by a wheelchair. I don't



know what power, but I don't feel disappointed in my heart. Probably this is because of the healthy family environment, the support of siblings and relatives. The holy Quran has been my table-book for many years. I re-read it over and over again and every time I get new understandings, both in terms of lexicography and in terms of the content. I don't feel lonely at all, although my children are outside and I am often alone in my hut.”

## *From Dream to the Mission*

“Recently,” says Zainulloh, “we wrote a new project for the United Nations Development Programme on making lemon jam. This type of product is rich in vitamin C, and its consumption is especially beneficial during the cold days of the year.

Another suggestion: I would like to ask the members of the organization to be more active. One easy way is to read more books. Many competitions are organized in our country. By participating, they get both fame and money. Or invent. We can even help them with products and training so that they do not simply remain dependent, but will be able to support themselves, and find their place in society, or at least succeed in sports. If you move, you can provide for yourself, even with your disability. This group of society needs timely motivation. We want to help as much as possible in this direction from economic and ideological point of view. We came into this world to do good things. This is my personal mission in this world.

During the preparation of this article, we find out that Zainulloh and his close friend have given 3500 Tajik somoni to buy protective equipment for doctors fighting the first wave of the coronavirus. The money was transferred as part of a campaign launched by Tajik journalist Rajabi Mirzo in the Facebook group Akhbor Baroi Afkor. According to another colleague of Zainulloh, Alijon Sarbandi:

*People with disabilities are full members  
of this society,  
They are true citizens  
of this country and state.  
Their contribution to the development  
of the country is great,  
They are always at the service  
of their people and homeland.*

SAIDA



**Women with disability  
should enjoy their rights**

**Exclusive Interview with Saida Inoyatova, Head of Public Organisation the League of Women with Disabilities “Ishtirok”.**

**— What activities are carried out by the civil society organization under your leadership to promote the rights and interests of women with disabilities in Tajikistan and raise public awareness on the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?**

— The League of Women with Disabilities “Ishtirok” started its activity in 2005. If we look at the problems and obstacles that exist for people with disabilities in society, such as thresholds, stairs, lack of elevators, etc., they are the same for both men and women. However, the specific concerns of women with disabilities have gone unnoticed. At first they were stigmatized and suffered from gender-based discrimination. Such a situation existed in the society and is still visible. Because of this, women often engaged in self-discrimination. They thought that “I am a woman, I have a disability, I haven’t right to speak or raise my voice.”

When our organization was founded, we wanted to expose the issues of stigmatization and discrimination faced by women with disabilities, and once they are revealed, to address these issues. The existing obstacles should be removed so that women with disabilities can live a decent life in society, enjoy their rights and be able to use them. We decided to enhance the capacity of women and girls with disabilities, so that they know their rights, have self-esteem and self-confidence, and thus can actively participate in the development of society.

We have done a lot of work and implemented various projects. Since 2003 we have been cooperating with Abilis Foundation and since 2011 we have been its representative in Tajikistan. Using this opportunity, we have already been able to help 80 disabled people’s organizations to operate, and also assist in establishing 17 of them. We helped to build the capacity of these organizations on a modern understanding of or a human rights-based approach to disability to change stereotype thinking of society, so that they can advance the rights and interests of people with disabilities. In particular, we assisted in the establishment of organizations of women with disabilities in Konibodom, Bokhtar, GBAO, Danghara, Shahritus, as well as youth organizations with disabilities in Khujand, Istaravshan and Dushanbe (“Noil”).

In addition, since 2018, with the financing of the Abilis Foundation, we have been holding a march (car marathon) every year to promote the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The purpose of this march is to identify problems and obstacles, to explain the rights of people with disabilities and human rights in general. What should be done to implement their rights? We discuss this issue with the public. We talk with government representatives, architects, civil society organizations and the public about the “National Action Plan on Preparation of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Ratification and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tajikistan also contributed to this activity.



In addition, in 2015, with the funding of the UNDP we conducted a number of activities to increase the capacity of disabled people’s organizations to promote their rights and reflect the issues of people with disabilities in the media. In addition, we conducted training and practical sessions for heads of disabled people’s organizations and a competition for the best article.



We met with the Minister of Transport of the Republic of Tajikistan and transport workers to improve services provided to people with disabilities and prevent the violation of their rights, and introduce accessible public transport for them. We applied to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the city government of Dushanbe to make the public transport available for people with disabilities. Since 2012, the first accessible transport for people with disabilities started to serve. Such transport is already moving on many routes of Dushanbe and Khujand, but drivers do not know how to serve and do not stop even when they see a person with a disability. Or, in some cases, cars stop at bust stops, and buses and trolleybuses are forced to stop on the second lane, and people with disabilities cannot enter public transport with wheelchairs.

— **What is the current situation of women with disabilities in Tajik society? What changes will take place following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?**

— Now, along with the achievements, there are also challenges that should be mentioned. In particular, expand the opportunities for women with disabilities to hold positions in government

bodies. There is also the problem of access to medical services. Unfortunately, not all medical facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Especially, medical consultations for women with disabilities are not organized in some institutions and maternity hospitals are neither accessible to them. Some laboratories of health care institutions are located in basements with many stairs, and people with disabilities face difficulties while accessing them. It cannot be said that accessibility should be partial, it should be fully provided.







Laws, policies and programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities must address the problems of women with disabilities. I mean that the needs of people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities should be taken into account both at the legislative and implementation levels.

The Republic of Tajikistan considers gender issues of women as a priority and a number of programmes are currently being implemented to this end. Those programmes which were approved show us that there is a political will of the state. We can say with confidence that if such activity continues, we will make greater achievements. We need to move and solve problems that are invisible, identify and overcome these obstacles in cooperation with the entire society, government structures and development partners. All work is ahead of us.

— **What are the main results of the project that was implemented in 2015 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme in Tajikistan?**

— Situation improved and changed in a drastic way in comparison with what we had seven years ago. Representatives of disabled people's organizations actively participate in the decision-making

process and are invited to various events by representatives of public bodies.

Disabled people's organizations are also very active in social networks and speak about this or that topical issue.

— **Does the League of Women with Disabilities "Ishtirok" plan to expand its cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in the future?**

— Of course, cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme is important for us. It would be nice to be supported in the future, especially in the area of promotion of rights of women with disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has special provisions on that. In addition, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was ratified in Tajikistan, guarantees the protection and implementation of the rights and interests of women with disabilities.

Since the status of women has been raised in the promotion of state policy, it would be great if the role of women with disabilities is also improved with the participation of civil society and the support of development partners.



**Successful leader of the organization and role model for his children**

**Although the path to dreams was difficult for Firuz Hamroev, he achieved success not only in his personal, but also in his public life, establishing fruitful cooperation with government agencies, commercial companies and international organizations. As a result, he made a significant contribution to finding jobs, financial assistance and entrepreneurship opportunities for a large number of people with disabilities.**

Currently, he works as the head of the Disabled People's Organization of Dushanbe city "Imkoniyat".

## *Dreams Come True*

— I was born in 1978, I was paralyzed at the age of nine months. Until the 9th grade, I was educated and brought up in a boarding school in Hisor. Then I studied at the lyceum with peers who did not have disabilities. In the first year, the behavior of those around me, especially my classmates, was not normal. In two years of inclusive education, I joined the community: I made friends with most of the students, unnecessary compassion disappeared, and we found ourselves on the same level.

In 1996, after graduating from high school, I entered the Finance Department of the Tajik State National University and studied accounting. Another problem arose: moving from one classroom to another and the lack of an accessible environment. It was difficult for me to travel by train from Hisor district every day. So, after a year of study, I switched to part-time study and started my entrepreneurship activity. Since I was younger and had disability, I was supported by other businessmen. After two years of trading in the Hisor market, I began to import goods from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and China. When the Korvon market of Dushanbe opened, I switched to wholesale trade. Unfortunately, there were many physical limitations and I decided to find my own way in life. I dreamed of becoming an accountant in my heart.

I graduated from the university in 2001 with honors. With every choice, my life has been partially changed. I started my accounting activity in the Department of Construction and Repair under the local executive authorities of Ismoili Somoni

district. I was taken there as an apprentice at the suggestion of the current head of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan, Asadullo Zikrikhudoev. My salary was 160 Tajik somoni. I faced many problems. For more than a year I applied to the State Savings Bank of Tajikistan — "Amonatbank" and participated in the recruitment competition. Because of my disability, I was not hired. But I was not disappointed. One day I accidentally read an advertisement on vacancies in Agroinvestbank and went there. Before that, I worked as an accountant in a pharmaceutical company and the Disabled People's Organization of Dushanbe "Imkoniyat".

I successfully passed through the competition of Agroinvestbank. In the human resources department, when they saw that I was walking with a cane, they said: "We cannot place you on the first floor. It is harder to get to the second floor. I agreed and worked for two years in the accounting department. But it was difficult for me to go up and down the stairs every day. Once I wrote to the head of the bank. It was reviewed and I was moved to the customer service department on the first floor of the building. It was my first achievement at work, when I was able to create suitable working conditions for myself.

When Asadullo Zikrikhudoev became the Chairman of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan, I was elected as a Chairman of the Disabled People's Organization of Dushanbe "Imkoniyat" in 2017.



We would invite and train young people with disabilities — graduates of special lyceum, and train them on accounting. We also established an accounting services department for business circles and hired seven young people with disabilities.

They were paid from 500 to 1000 Tajik somoni. We signed contracts with more than 30 commercial organizations. We covered all the administrative expenses of the organization from the income we received.

In 2017, the United Nations Development Programme announced a competition for project proposals, where we took part and received financial support. The main goal of the project was to create jobs for people with disabilities. We were provided with a space in the buildings belonging to the local executive authorities of the Dushanbe city for free. We launched a tailor service with 11 sewing machines, a workshop for repairing of house appliances and shoes. The service center and accounting department are still functioning. We carry out the activities of the organization at the expense of the income from these two sources. We managed to increase the average salary of our employees: they receive from 1 000 to 1 500 Tajik somoni.

Currently, the Disabled People's Organization of Dushanbe "Imkoniyat" has about 2 000 members.

## *Serving the Community*

— **What opportunities does your organization use to prepare the public for future ratification and implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?**

— We launched a project on conducting study among people with disabilities in 2019 with the UNDP support. It was found that the legal awareness of persons with disabilities is at a low level. We live in the 21st century. In this regard, we must strive to raise public awareness on disability, their rights and benefits through the media, the Internet, training and seminars. The Coalition of DPOs of Dushanbe city and districts of republican subordination was established under this project to promote the Convention.

In cooperation with other civil society organizations, we regularly conduct monitoring on accessibility of buildings for people with disabilities





and discuss the results at meetings with representatives of local executive bodies of towns and districts of Tajikistan.

It would be good if the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan ratifies this Convention in the coming years and provides better conditions for people with disabilities.

— **After monitoring, was an accessible environment provided or did problems remain?**

— People with disabilities have better access to public transport in Dushanbe. There are conditions in buses and trolleybuses, and there are special ramps for entering. In addition, we have heard that voice traffic lights were installed next to crossing points in some areas of the city. Most of the new buildings currently under construction will have ramps, special toilets, signage for the deaf and blind, and Braille will be available in some elevators. Unfortunately, the old buildings, which were built in the Soviet era, do not meet the requirements.

Today we are cooperating with the relevant authorities. For example, we signed a memorandum of understanding with the Committee for Construction and Architecture under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. However, it should be noted that there is no access to information for the deaf in new buildings. Medical centers and other public institutions do not have sign language interpreters for the deaf. Or there are still no special pathways for the blind. These problems need to be solved in the future.

## *“I am Happy with My Fate”*

— **You are very active in public life. Could you tell us about your main achievements in your personal life?**

— Thank God, I have been married since 2000, I have four children: two sons and two daughters. All of them are studying.

I have my own apartment and car. All this was achieved with hard working. Today I have found my place in society. Every person with a disability should try to create conditions for himself.

I have a habit in life: when I set a goal, I try to achieve it, despite the difficulties.

In fact, my main goal as a CSO leader is to ensure financial sustainability and work effectively with development partners. I have the following goal in my personal life: to marry my children and send them to an independent life.

— **Whom do your children see in your person?**

— I am a role model for my children. They don't see me as a disabled father. I have a good reputation in the area where I live. Some neighbors use me as a role model for their children, saying: “Despite his disability, he succeeded.”

— **Are you happy with your fate?**

— Of course! When I was young, I thought that life had no meaning for me. But I set goals, and when they were achieved, it inspired me. I am fully happy with my life and fate.

— **Do you remember the sweetest moment of your life?**

— When my first child was born, it was the best day of my life, because I was told: “My son! You became a father!” I dream of a time when I can tell my son: “You have become a father!”





## *"The Attitude Should Change"*

### — How do you see the future Tajik society for people with disabilities?

— Since Tajikistan is a social state, we need to take a closer look at the society itself, what level social life is at. The situation of people with disabilities is not bad today, because they receive pensions, benefits, and a 5-percent working quota is available. I want people with disabilities to have equal rights along with all members of society. The Constitution has guaranteed this. We need to change society's view on disability. Because they see in such a person a person, for whom one should be kind. The attitude should change, that is, the society should become benevolent and enabling. People today view a person with a disability as a beggar and in need. But this stereotype needs to be broken.

I have visited over 10 countries. I was in Japan in 2012 and USA in 2014. The accessible environment that exists in Japan is unique, since many people became disabled after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, and the society created favorable conditions for them.

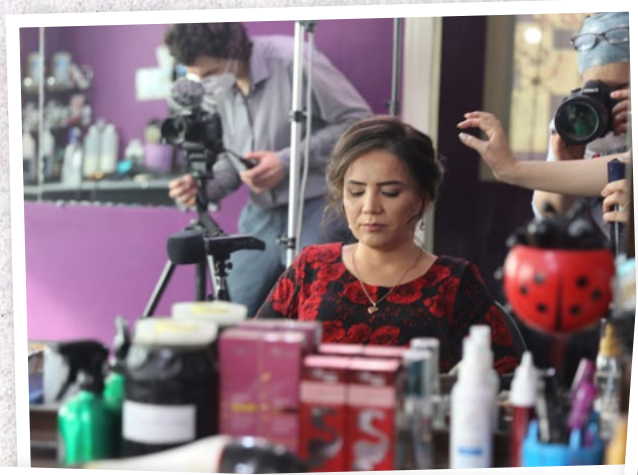
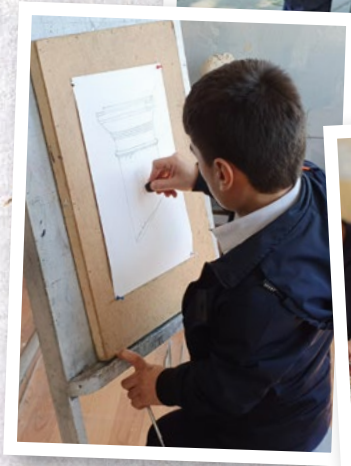
There is one point in the National Action Plan on Preparation of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Ratification and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: there should be one advisor with disability under each local executive authority, because they better understand the problems of their peers. The implementation of the National Action Plan is progressing well. We should try to improve the available conditions, opportunities and environment in the future.

# All for One and One for All

This is an online movie series prepared and filmed by the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan in 2020. It consists of 6 parts, each part tells a short story of one hero. Zarrina Hojimuratova is the director of this film.

## Connections

The film shows one day in the life of two brothers and a sister. Davrinisso Juraeva, Mirzomiddin Nuriddin and Abubakr Nuriddinzoda have short height. Sometimes people don't know how to communicate with them. But these talented young people have great goals and dreams, and they overcome all the challenges with persistence to achieve them.



## Falak

This is a story of a young blind girl Matluba Rahimova, who lives in the world of music. She sings, goes to rehearsals and does the usual housework. But all this is difficult when there is no one to help her to get to work. You can see in this film how she overcame the obstacles and became a well-known singer of the country despite the difficulties.

Watch the movies here: [bit.ly/3AOutd5](https://bit.ly/3AOutd5)



## Teacher

Nothing can stop you from doing what you love. This online movie tells the story of a deaf person Sherali Tolibov. He works as a watchman at night and as an art teacher at a boarding school for deaf children during the day.

The school is far away, but this does not prevent Sherali from going to his favorite work: he is going to contribute to the development of children who have not heard the chirping of the nightingale and the voice of the mother. They tell their tales, where the world speaks with a beautiful smile, smooth movement of children's hands and sign language.



## Bright Dance

When a person has a dream in his heart, he is happy. We often want to be successful in any trade or occupation. But to realize our dream, we must overcome many obstacles.

This is the story of Shohzoda Sul-tonboeva — a girl, who accomplished her dream, that is, she is a dancer. She dances, though she walks with crutches. She dances in a wheelchair and has won many competitions due to her superior skills. And her dream is to teach girls like her to dance, not to lose their hope, but enjoy the sweet life.

She proved by her own example: when you are engaged in something you like, you enjoy it.





## Dar Yak Zamin (On One Land)

A person with autism is also affectionately called "Rain Man". What is autism? There are some people out there who do not know anything about it.

People with autism are very skillful and kind. This short video tells about the interesting life of Ravshan Khojaev, his friends, hobbies and creativity. We walk the same Earth and at the same time we can learn to be kind and happy to each other.



## Kholnisso

The birth of a child is a great happiness for parents. The birth of special children is happiness too, which follows the daily triumph and surge of emotion over surrounding events. "Sunny children" or children with Down syndrome are the kindest people on the Earth. The film "Kholnisso" tells the story of a special girl named Nasiba Mahmadova. Kholnisso is another name for Nasiba, her family gave this name to her with love and care because of her humor and thoughtfulness. This story introduces us to great achievements, small joys and boundless love and sincerity.



SHOHZODA →

## Good worker and favorite dancer

**With the guidance of her mother and personal will, Shohzoda Sul-tonboeva left her home, went to school and university, became an accountant, manager, coach and a wheelchair dancer. She traveled the world, helped other people with disabilities, and finally became famous and loved by the community.**

This beautiful girl enlightened the world with her birth on December 7, 1993. Now she leans on two crutches and has been driving since 2015. Currently, she works in the Disabled People's Organization of Dushanbe city "Imkoniyat".

### *From Isolation to Success*

Shohzoda considers that her first success was when she broke the lonely cage and without hesitation left the house to see the world.

"After graduating from high school," she says, "I stayed at home for several years, and my mindset and self-esteem plummeted. My spirit was confined in a stereotype. In other words, I isolated

myself from society by saying: "I have a disability, if I come out everyone will stare at me." After I joined the community of people with disabilities, my mother encouraged me to continue my studies. I entered a special vocational lyceum for people with disabilities, where I studied for two years and learned accounting."

On the advice of her loving mother, Shohzoda continued her study. With the assistance of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, she was admitted to the Philosophy Department of the Tajik National University, majoring in sociology. She says:

"There were 40 people in the class. I was the only one with disability. My fellow students at first could not accept me. They would go to a park after classes, but I couldn't follow them. Everything was good inside the class: we would debate on various topics with fellow student. But outside the class they didn't know how to treat me. For a month I was a stranger to my fellow students and suffered. My mother encouraged me: "Not everyone can enter university. You must be patient. "I was patient. A month later we got on and became friends. Over time, I changed their thoughts and views towards people with disabilities."

In 2014, in parallel with her studies, Shohzoda started working as an accountant in the Disable Peoples Organization of Dushanbe city "Imkoniyat". "Sometimes," she says, "when I would go to a seminar or on a business trip as a part of my job, I would take a time off from the university. We had a teacher who, when I was late from work to my class, would not mark me as "absent". During one of the breaks, he said: "Shohzoda, I present you as a role model to other students, that is, the person who studies and works at the same time."

***"I'm happy that I can be a role model for others, so that they choose a right path and set goals for their own future."***



A year later, Shohzoda transferred to the Department of Economics. During the period of 2015 to 2019, she completed her university studies and received a diploma. Given her skills and professionalism, she was transferred from accounting to the position of a project manager in the organization. She still promotes the interests of people with disabilities. She conducts seminars and trainings on the modern understanding of disability, raising awareness of people without disabilities about people with disabilities. She says:

"One of our projects was supported by the United Nations Development Programme in Tajikistan. The goal was to conduct a sociological survey and determine the level of legal awareness of people with disabilities in the districts of republican subordination. As part of this project, we worked with a sociologist who was my mentor at the university. He explained how to fill out the questionnaires and said, "It would be nice if people with disabilities could fill them out themselves." Four or five of us were selected from a group and sent to districts to conduct interviews.

In addition, we conducted interviews on projects for 2019–2020. Then, together with representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population the country, we developed brochures about laws, rights and benefits for people with disabilities. We still use the brochures. I gained a lot of experience during project implementation. Before that, I was not a trainer. I learned the skills of working with the audience during this project."

***"Looking at This World through the Eyes of Wisdom..."***

Shohzoda traveled to the US in 2016 with a group of young people as part of the Open World Programme. This was her first trip outside of Tajikistan. Then her path was opened and she visited many other countries. She says:

"I brought only Tajik dresses with me. The Americans really liked my national dresses, and they even took pictures with me. I learned about the standard of living of people with physical disabilities. They have all conditions. If they want, they can study without problems. They have access to all buildings, shops. When they study, work, become independent, they would not depend on anyone. In my opinion, if an accessible environment is also created in Tajikistan, the life of people with disabilities will become easier. Following my return, I would speak about the accessible environment at various events. I would search the Internet for information about the accessible environment. Meanwhile, something amazing happened. A playground was constructed for children in front of our house, which did not have any ramps (special passages).





I talked to the construction manager and explained that if a ramp is built, it would be used not only by people with disabilities, but also by elderly people and mothers with baby carriages. After this conversation, the ramp was built.”

## *Accessible Environment: From Dream to Action*

Tajikistan joined the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018, and according to the National Action Plan, it should be ratified by the Parliament after few years. According to Shohzoda, if this Convention enters into force, accessible environment would be the first thing that the government will provide.

“We inform people of Tajikistan about this document and say that there is a Convention that protects the rights and interests of persons with disabilities, both within the country and at the international level. Then, with the support of a project in Sughd region, we conducted a car marathon and distributed booklets about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in all districts. We did the same in Dushanbe, Vahdat and Faizobod districts. We have organized many TV shows and conducted trainings in remote areas for people with and without disabilities. We informed them about the provisions, benefits and rights of the Convention,” she added.

## *Dancing Girl*

During this time, our heroine not only improved the skills of training, speaking, working with the audience to attract the attention of the participants, but also mastered the art of dancing in a wheelchair. When and how, she explains:

“In 2016, we saw a basketball team dancing on wheelchairs in USA. Upon our return, we purchased five special basketball wheelchairs and formed separate teams: one group for boys and one group for girls. On December 3, 2017, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we had many activities, one of which was the wheelchair basketball team. I was suggested to dance in the wheelchair. I only had a week for training. I found a coach: Firuza Abduvali. These were my first steps in the field of culture, dancing in a wheelchair in front of people. I can never forget this feeling. Everyone was delighted after my performance. This dance was one of the first dances in a wheelchair in the country.

Earlier, for the first time in Sughd region, a wheelchair basketball tournament was held between the teams of Khujand and Dushanbe. Girls with disabilities also prepared a group dance and went out to dance in their wheelchairs during breaks between the games. My performance was different from their dance, as they stayed on the wheelchair in one place, only their hands were moving, and I would move my hands, and my whole body, and a wheelchair. After that dance, I was told to continue this art.”



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**Suddenly, an interesting thought came to Shohzoda's mind: she decided to create a dancing group, involving those shy and isolated girls with disability**

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"I started a wheelchair dance project in 2018. Firstly, I held a seminar with the girls with disabilities and then the psychologist Nargis Toymastova talked to them. Following the advice of a psychologist, I chose five girls out of 20 who had been isolated at home for a long time and were in deep depression. I formed a wheelchair dance group with these five girls. We danced for four months. We staged eight wheelchair dances and performed with the girls at various events. First performance of our group was on President's Day — November

16, 2018. That day, a festive programme was held on the square near the Opera and Ballet Theater named after Sadriddin Aini. The audience was delighted with our performance, someone cried, someone said bravo. After such a warm reception the girls were inspired, their self-esteem increased, they starting loving themselves. After rehearsals we would go out to the city using public transport and the girls were able to move around independently. Then there were more performances, people learned about our activities and we even took part in one of shows of Safina TV channel.

In 2019, at a major international event of fire-fighters, a UN representative recommended to the organizer of the event to invite us. When they asked about our fee, I said that "1 thousand Tajik somoni would be enough." But they paid 2 thousand Tajik somoni. This was the first event where the girls were paid, and then there was motivation to train more.

From the very beginning, I set a goal to motivate isolated girls. Finally I achieved my goal: one of them got married, two went to university, and the fourth got a job. And as they got busier, the number of rehearsals reduced."

In the same year, a world beauty contest under the title of "Born to Win" was conducted among girls with disabilities, where representatives of the Russian Federation, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Tajikistan took part. Shohzoda represented our country. Six out of 12 participants danced in wheelchairs. She danced in a Tajik national dress "Chakan" to a national song and music, and was recognized as the winner in the nomination of "Shahbonui Argusht" (Dancing Queen).



## Act of Glory

The first National Congress of People with Disabilities was held in Tajikistan In 2018 and one of the initiators of this high-level event was Shohzoda.

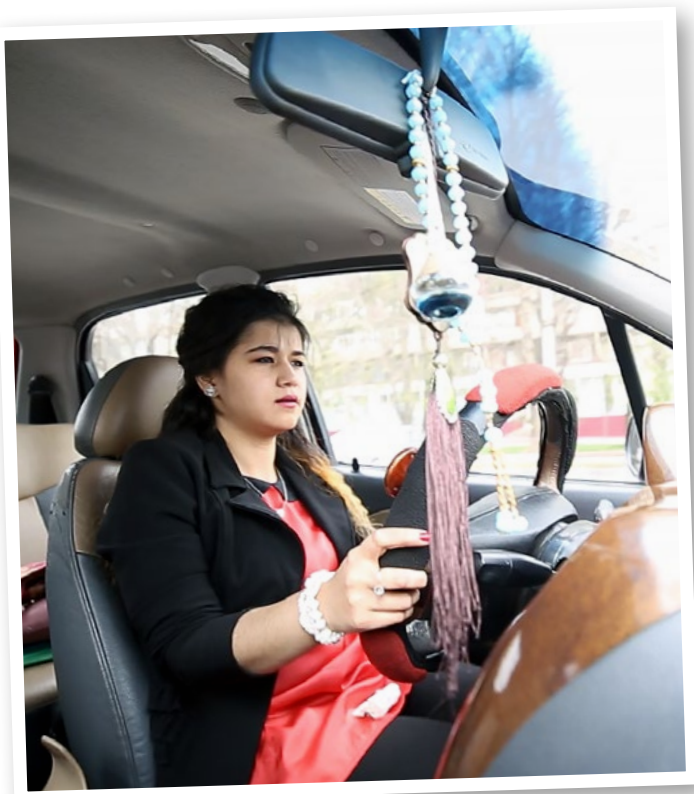
“We, four people, took part in the World Congress, which was held in Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation. When we returned, we organized it in Tajikistan and brought together people with disabilities from all over the country. Our goal was to mobilize people living in remote areas.

We wanted to show what was happening in the center of the country and what people with disabilities were doing here so they could exchange the experience, learn and be active in their regions,” the young girl said.

## Different Shohzoda

All this participation and activities made Shohzoda a leader.

“I have really changed,” she said. — At some point, I felt embarrassed when someone looked at me. Now if they look at me, I say to myself, “Am I attracting that much attention?” (laughs). They used to say: “Poor girl! How are you going to do it every day: to go to work and study at the same time? Can’t you sit at home? Now if they say that, I know how to answer them.”



## Questions and answers: Personal life...

— **Did you ever fall in love? — we asked Shohzoda.**

— Why not? During these 28 years I fell in love with life, with the world. Otherwise, I would not have made such achievements. Once I loved myself, I steadily moved on in order to succeed and find my place in the society. Now I feel successful in all spheres: both in my personal and in public life. My view of the life has also changed. I think that if I had no had a disability, I would not have made such achievements, I would not have been able to travel to foreign countries.

— **Do you plan to get married?**

— Of course! God willing, when the time comes, I will get married. In the future, as a mother with a disability I can be a role model for the society that “has given birth to healthy children and raised them well.”

— **What is happiness? Are you happy?**

— In my opinion, happiness, first of all, is a situation when my mother and older sister are next to me. Hence, I think happiness is in being a mother. This is one of my dreams, and if God wants, it will come true. I want to set up a family and become a mother.

— **How do you see your future social activities?**

— I will continue my social activities if the person, who will accompany me in my life, i.e. my future husband, supports me. I will promote the rights and interests of people with disabilities in the future.

— **What is your life motto?**

— Believe in yourself and show to others!



*Shohzoda Sultonboeva  
founded the first dancing  
group on wheelchairs in the  
capital of Tajikistan*





## I am very happy!

**He once dreamed of being next to his parents. Over the years, this dream came true. He started working with a non-governmental organization. Now he helps dozens of people with disabilities, using his experience and skills. His marital status is also good, he considers himself the happiest person on the Earth. Our 43-year-old hero is Ramziddin Juraev, the chairman of the branch of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan in Bobojon Ghafurov district.**

### *Brief summary of his biography*

- ✓ As a child he was sent to a special boarding school.
- ✓ After graduation, he spent a few years at a nursing home.
- ✓ He learned English language from TV that helped him to get a good job.
- ✓ He managed to improve his living conditions.
- ✓ He is married and has one daughter.
- ✓ The President of Tajikistan granted him a house for his efforts and hardworking.
- ✓ He considers himself successful because he believes that disability cannot prevent from being happy.



## Game of the Fate

"A month after I was born," says Ramziddin, "My temperature rose and I was taken to a local medical facility for injection. The next day it turned out that I got disability. To hide my disability, my parents decided to take me out not only from home, but also from Leninabad (now Sughd) region and send me to a boarding school in Dushanbe.

Over time, I grew up and saved money and went looking for my parents. In 1998, I found all my relatives and we talked. Now we are seeing each other and have relationships."

Despite some childhood hardships and deprivation, Ramziddin warmly remembers that time:

"The boarding school was, in fact, a place where children with intellectual disabilities were taken care of. I was the only one with a physical disability among them. Since wheelchairs were not widely available in Soviet times, I was not accepted to the Khirmanak special boarding school. But our director and tutors were good people. They invited a teacher and created conditions for my study. The teacher would come three times a week to teach reading, writing and counting. I didn't suffer anything. My childhood was good.



Of course, I sometimes thought: "Why is it so? Why am I not at home?" Now I see that a father or mother of a child with a disability says, "Our child should stay at home. He doesn't need to study, and so on." But where I grew up, we were allowed to be independent. For example, we had to wear our own clothes, we had to learn how to hold and use a spoon..."

## New Stage of Life

One question did not leave him alone in his teenage years: "Would I stay here all my life?"

According to the law, upon reaching the age of 18, a person should move from a boarding school to another place.

"I was sent to the Regar nursing home," said Ramziddin. There I faced many problems, because being young I sometimes played music loudly, talked loudly or moved in a wheelchair. The old people didn't like that."

This unusual situation for him did not last long.

## Benefits from Watching TV

In 1996, representatives of one of international non-governmental organizations in Tajikistan visited a nursing home. When they were speaking to each other in English, Ramziddin would translate it into Tajik. Being surprised, they asked, "Do you know English?" After receiving a positive answer, they asked again:

"Where did you study?" His answer surprised them even more. "From TV," he said.

"I watched TV for almost 24 hours," recalls those days Ramziddin. "There was a special programme that taught some English. I learned English in a few years without a teacher, on my own. I just memorized the words. For the first time I expressed my opinion in English during the meeting with those foreigners. They liked it and said, "We have the opportunity to hire you. There is only one problem: we take you in the morning and return you in the evening." I agreed. I was invited to an office and I went. A year and a half later they said: "You are officially hired." Until 2008 I worked in that organization as a coordinator for the development of small and medium-sized entrepreneurship among people with disabilities. We completed many activities and trained people with disabilities on entrepreneurship. We would fund their projects and help in their implementation."



## Meanwhile...

The most important thing for Ramziddin is family happiness that also has its history:

"I came to Khujand in 2007 with a business trip. Earlier I found some relatives. My aunts and uncles invited me as a guest. The mother of my future wife was a friend of my aunt. We talked at the suggestion of my aunt and liked each other. I have been married for 15 years. My wife has a secondary education and now she is a housewife, but sometimes she helps us as a volunteer. Now she is a member of a tailor group. It will be good if she learns and teaches her craft to women and girls with disabilities. We have one child. She is in 5th grade. My wife and daughter do not have disability. We sometimes go for a walk, to a cafe together. If I have time, I spend it with my family, but I have a lot of work: I go out in the morning and come in the evening, therefore I do not always have such opportunity...

I am happy that today I have an independent life. I am so happy! The birth of a child is a novelty for me, a new step that has improved my life."

## House Key

His peaceful life gained a new dimension after a happy event that also has its own history. Ramziddin tells:

"For several years we lived in a rented house. Luckily, on September 14, 2016 our President H. E. Emomali Rahmon gave us a new house. During the commissioning of a multi-story residential building in the 19th district of Khujand, His Excellency personally handed me the keys of an apartment and said:

"Those services that you do, do them even more and better" At that moment, I said: "As long as I am alive, I will serve the people and the Motherland, regardless of my disability." This is still my mission and the meaning of my life."

## Social Activities

Since 2009 Ramziddin Juraev has been the head of the branch of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan in Bobojon Ghafurov district of Sughd region.

"Honestly," he says, "it is not important for me to be a head. More important is to provide at least some help to people with disabilities, both financially and mentally. I have many acquaintances, who have worked with me before and still support me from abroad. We will use this opportunity and work with people."

Ramziddin's professionalism allowed the branch of the Union to implement several projects. He says:

"We implemented a sewing workshop project in Sughd region, where more than 20 women and girls worked. We organized basketball teams on wheelchairs both for men and women, and later a group of dancers. The goal was to bring out women with disabilities from home, so that they become active in the community. If they are isolated, their lives will not move forward and they will be depressed. But we struggled for almost a year to ensure that these girls get adapted to society and become more open, so that they dance regularly. Thank God, they performed in several places, including the celebration of 25th Anniversary of State Independence of the country in 2016 that makes me happy.

We opened another sewing workshop in 2012 and provided jobs for 12 women and girls. This workshop is still active. They were trained as tailors. What was the purpose? First, they learn to sew. Secondly, they earn some additional income through this activity. We opened another workshop for production of woolen scarves, where 8 girls worked. Another project was aimed at giving families one cow to raise for a short period of time and sell, and buy another cow and spend the income for supporting their life.

Our branch has over 3000 members. To date, we have trained 120 people in various specialties and more than 15 persons have received higher education. In addition, more than 35 people with disabilities were trained and received a driver's license at the driving school that was opened in 2015 with the participation of H. E. Emomali Rahmon. Though this school is intended for people with disabilities, but we can also teach driving skills to people without disabilities.





This project was implemented with the support of Rustami Emomali, who, along being the mayor of Dushanbe, is also the chairman of the Football Federation of Tajikistan. In addition to the driving school, there is also a mini-football field, an educational and rehabilitation center for children with disabilities, and a sewing workshop for 12 girls there”.

## *Nature Protection*

The branch of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan in Bobojon Ghafurov district also contributes to the direction of environmental protection with the implementation of the special project. That is, in order not to fill up everywhere with plastic containers and bags, they make bags from paper and rags. Ramziddin says that more than 800 bags were made during three months and provided them to stores for free use by shoppers.

“We explain to people to use these bags, since they do not harm the environment. We hope to receive paid orders from various stores and enterprises in the future,” he added.

## *Human Rights Promotion*

Along with all these activities, this branch provides clothes, shoes, bedding and food to around one thousand people with disabilities every year.

The branch also plays an important role in promoting the rights of people with disabilities, for example, in the case of restoration of a disability pension, enrollment in a university under the current legislation, enrollment of children with disabilities in school, etc.

“We not only provide jobs and financial support to people with disabilities,” Ramziddin said, “but we also do our best to protect their rights and conduct trainings. We are happy that we did a lot for signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We conducted trainings not only in Bobojon Ghafurov district, but throughout Sughd region in cooperation with local organizations and organizations working with people with disabilities. We held meetings and round tables both with people and representatives of government bodies, emphasizing that the ratification of this Convention is very important and necessary for our country. We see that the Government of

the Republic of Tajikistan is working hard to improve the lives of people with disabilities. This shows that our government wants serious attention to be paid to the people with disabilities.”

## Wanting Means Acting

The other types of activities of Ramziddin and members of his branch include organization of various cultural and entertainment events dedicated to the Day of People with Disabilities and the Elderly of the Republic of Tajikistan (July 8) and Children’s Day (June 1) for children and adolescents with disabilities. Our hero’s words:

“There is a lot of work, a lot of people. it is necessary to allocate time and provide consultation to each of them. Comprehensive assistance should be provided: providing jobs, financial and legal support. However, I am not burdened with it, but I am happy to serve the people of Sughd region, regardless of whether they have a disability or not. In fact, the life motto of mine and my associates is:

“We can!”. Usually, when a person with a disability comes in and says, “I have this problem,” we ask him, “How can be this problem solved?” He will say, “Find me a job.” We ask: “Do you want to work?” If he says, “I don’t know,” the question arises, “Do you want it or not yourself?” If you want, you can; if you don’t want, you never can.” That is, a person’s desire to do something is already a foundation for his/her ability to do something.”



## Symbol of Happiness

“I am a person who is always ready to help someone else. I do not say: “I have not time today, come tomorrow!” If someone comes to me, I have to make time for him. I am a free person. People know me as a polite and kind person. I am not depressed because I do not consider myself disabled. What makes me disabled, lack of access to any place of environment? Those persons, who are my friends, never say: “Come in your wheelchair!” They only say, “Come and join.” In other words, they do not consider me disabled, but consider me equal to them,” said Ramziddin.



# Development of the sign language in Tajikistan is needed



*ABDUMANNON*

**Exclusive interview with Abdumannon Sharifov, the Chairman of the National Association of the Deaf of Tajikistan.**

**— What does your organization do to protect the rights and interests of the deaf in Tajikistan?**

— We visited all districts of the Republic of Tajikistan over the past year. We conducted a number of meetings in the departments of education and pensions, and explained the rights of the deaf. We explained the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and it will be ratified by Tajikistan in the future, and they should work in accordance with it. All government agencies, hospitals, departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor's Office, and courts should have sign language interpreters, because the deaf persons also get sick and get hospitalized, happen to be at police, prosecutor's office, court and they cannot communicate on their own.

**— What should be done for the development of the sign language in the community and its use by the deaf via TV and other various activities?**

— The deaf have neither a spoken language nor an auditory ear. Their fingers and hands are their language. We are striving to prepare our documents to open training courses for sign language interpreters in our association. Not a single university in the Republic of Tajikistan trains interpreters for us.

In 2021, I met with a group of deaf people in GBAO and they told me: "When the President of the Republic of Tajikistan appears on television, we want to have a sign language interpreter, so that we can understand everything he says." When we open training courses, there will be 20 people involved, and after six months we will also train sign language interpreters. We will train interpreters for the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and all authorities. During visits to regions of the country I learned that there are people who want to learn sign language. We told them that we would definitely contact them once we are ready.

**— What opportunities does the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Disabled create for deaf people in Tajikistan?**

— If the Convention is ratified, not only the deaf, but all people with disabilities Tajikistan will win. Now new constructions are going on in Dushanbe, but people with disabilities do not have the opportunity to enter a store in wheelchairs due to the fact that some of the buildings are not equipped with a ramp. So, sign language interpreters for the deaf and voice traffic lights for the blind will be provided. Like all citizens, people with disabilities have the right to adequate treatment in society. In addition, they also have the right to equal access to all systems, including education, social protection, rehabilitation, health and skills development programmes, employment, justice and other areas aimed at self-development and full participation.



— **What training courses have been organized by the union for deaf people, so that they learn skills and profession and get a job?**

— Last year we opened educational and practical courses for 200 deaf people. Now they have internship. After completion of the course, we will provide them with documents and jobs.

— **If you have any addition about the activities of the Association or situation of deaf persons in the country, please share.**

— Deaf children first study at two special boarding schools in Rudaki district. After graduating, they become members of the National Association of the Deaf of Tajikistan, and all their problems fall on the shoulders of the Association. They can do all works, but deaf people are not accepted for employment anywhere. The deaf persons repair houses and cars, sew clothes and blankets, that is, whatever order is made in sewing, they do it. Just one our association cannot employ them all. The National Association of the Deaf in Tajikistan registered around 9000 people up till now, but there are also many unregistered people.

If the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is ratified, we will take efforts, so that deaf people get employed. They can work in construction or drive taxis because they have a driving license. They can also be cooks, carpenters or tailors.

When we went to Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, I learned that deaf people cannot get a job there, because our enterprises operate

in Dushanbe. They cannot come and go. They can do almost everything. We have sewing machines and we decided to send them to Pamir in 2022. We have already sent a mixer and sign language books.

Sign language books have been published and are currently in the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan. We sent a letter asking for books on sign language to be provided and distributed. But it would be nice if we could make a video with a person on alphabet of sign language, as well as a commentary on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities concerning the rights of the deaf. Maybe through this approach they will learn faster.

The National Association of the Deaf of Tajikistan has two institutions in its balance in Dushanbe: Rehabilitation Training and Production Institutions No. 1 and No. 2. Mostly deaf people work in them and sew various products, including blankets, pillows, gloves, overalls and military uniforms. The total area of the first production enterprise is 3 hectares. There are sewing, cotton processing, carpentry and other workshops there. For example, deaf people make plastic doors and windows. Lemons and tangerines are grown in its greenhouses. We also have a gym, a palace of culture and a dormitory in Dushanbe.

The Association also has two rehabilitation training and production institutions No. 3 and No. 4 in Sughd region, where deaf people are mainly engaged in the production of garments. We also have a sanatorium and two dormitories in Sughd region.







Our Association has its branches located in Bokhtar city of Khatlon region, Khujand city of Sughd region and Khorugh city of GBAO that work in districts for registration of the deaf.

Last year, we conducted a festival-competition and a flash mob about the importance of sign language in Kurushi Kabir park. I want to thank the Chairman of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan, Mr. Asadullo Zikrikhudoev, for his support. During this festival we introduced the deaf with ordinary people, so that they get integrated to the community.

In 2021, in cooperation with "Dili Khaikhoh" Association we trained 200 people in the following areas: hairdressing, sewing, electrical equipment repair, furniture making, pastry and cooking, as well as computer work. After the training we issued certificates to them.

During this year, we will try to have one representative of the National Association of the Deaf of Tajikistan in all districts, since we have deaf children there. Who supervises their education? We went and saw with our own eyes that they were all illiterate. We want to bring them to a boarding school in Dushanbe, but their parents do not

agree. Therefore, it is necessary to train a specialist in sign language for each town and district. As deaf children are taught in Rushon, such activities should be also implemented in other districts.

The government sometimes helps the poor deaf people, but in other cases we support them ourselves. We have a resort in Romit gorge, Qairaqum, Ghonchi, but they need some renovation.

**— What is the source of funding of the National Association of the Deaf of Tajikistan?**

— The National Association of the Deaf of Tajikistan is self-funded. Actually we lead our activities at the expense of operation of our institutions, as well as renting out our vacant premises to entrepreneurs.

**— Is it enough?**

— Money is never enough. We are supporting to the extent possible.

Every year the World Day of the Deaf is celebrated on September 26. The deaf gather at the Palace of Culture on this day to celebrate their day, they dance and enjoy. Competitions are also organized in sports hall. We arrange a banquet for them on this day and invite artists of the State Circus to show interesting programmes.





**Social policy and sectoral programmes of the Republic of Tajikistan on the rights of women with disabilities**

**Special attention is paid to enhancing the status of women in socio-economic life in the social policy of the state and Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.**

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has adopted a package of specific measures to improve the position of women in society, ensuring their constitutional rights, expanding social and labour activities, addressing gender issues, raising the level of education and promoting them in political, economic, social and cultural life. To this end, dozens of regulatory legal acts have been implemented. This is evidenced by the development and adoption of the “New National Strategy for Activization of the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2030”, approved by Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 167, of April 30, 2021.

The rights of women, including women with disabilities, are an integral part of universal human rights. Creating conditions for full and equal participation of women in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres of society is a priority of the public policy of the Republic of Tajikistan. Economic, social and political development of the country requires the active participation of women in all spheres of life of the society. Ensuring gender equality and activization of women will contribute to sustainable development of the country.

Given the vulnerability of women with disabilities in relation to other segments of the population, a separate article of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is dedicated to them:

**Article 6. Women with disabilities**

1. States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.

Tajikistan, which has been a party to the Convention since 2018, takes necessary measures in its policy to implement its provisions and implemented a number of activities in this area. For example, the New National Strategy for Activization of the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for

2021–2030 prioritizes measures to ensure the rights of women with disabilities and strengthening their social and economic activities, noting that “there is still a large number of women, in particular, from vulnerable groups (retired and disabled women, single mothers, mothers raising disabled children, spouses of labour migrants) among the poor population.” By instruction of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, a one-time allowance in the amount of 500 Tajik somoni was provided to this category of the population to prevent the consequences of COVID-19 and strengthen their social protection.

At the beginning of 2022 more than 56 000 woman-headed poor families have been registered with the bodies of social protection of the population. At the same time, 25 000 poor families have disabled children under the age of 18. As of January 1, 2022, 157 933 people with disabilities were registered in the country, including 31 801 children with disabilities. The average monthly pension is 328.9 Tajik somoni. Among people with disabilities, 41.2 percent are women (equivalent to 65 068 persons).

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Out of the total number:

- 16 871 disabled persons of group I;
  - 75 614 disabled persons of group II;
  - 33 647 disabled persons of group III.
- 

The New National Strategy for Activization of the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2030 along with having relevant measures on ensuring women’s rights, gender equality and gender-responsive programmes, pays a special attention to women with disabilities. One of these measures is the development of mechanisms for legal protection of workers from gender restrictions in the workplace; expanding short-term employment programmes to meet the needs of women, in particular women with disabilities, and improving gender-sensitive statistical database.

This Strategy considers all aspects of women’s life, their rights and interests, including ensuring the protection of women, especially women with disabilities, and their reproductive health. As it is reflected there: “Improving the quality of life of women by strengthening reproductive health and maternal and child health is one of the main goals of this Strategy.”

It should be noted that under the initiative of the National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan and in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population, a much-needed guideline on reproductive health and reproductive



rights of women with disabilities and their families has been developed. This information booklet is intended for people with disabilities and has information on motherhood, health and reproductive rights, family planning, prevention of unintended pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

In addition, within the framework of the implementation of the “National Action Plan on Preparation of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Ratification and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, the new draft Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Their Integration”, developed by the Interagency Working Group, will specify the issue of the rights of women with disabilities in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Convention.

When it comes to ensuring the rights of people with disabilities, this means that both social and public policies taken include women with disabilities. These are the fundamental principles of an inclusive society and gender equality that most government programmes are based on. For example, the National Action Plan and the State Programme on Accessible Environment state that all relevant measures are aimed at ensuring the rights and interests of persons with disabilities, and there is no limitation on women.

This point comes out of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution 34/180 of December 18, 1979. It stipulates

requirements for prevention and elimination of discrimination against women in general; they are not divided into women with disabilities, poor women or women with other signs of vulnerability.

The issue of social protection of women with disabilities is under regular attention of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. At the same time, authorized state bodies regularly take measures to support them, provide various social assistance, and solve the problems of women with disabilities and their families.

Along with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population and its subordinate structures, other ministries, agencies, organizations and other institutions, regardless of their legal form, also implement activities. For example, in February 2022, during the visit of the working group to Rasht district, representatives of the working group, including the First Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Youth and Sports visited the house of a veteran of labour, active woman, former Deputy Chairman of Rasht district Davlatpocho Mirzoyeva and a woman with a disability Mohrukhsor Karimova in order to see their living conditions.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan pays special attention to the empowerment of women from rural areas and has created favorable conditions for improving legislation and developing small and medium-sized businesses. To support women’s entrepreneurship, grants of the

President of the Republic of Tajikistan and other types of economic benefits are provided by direct initiative of the Leader of the Nation. Women and girls with disabilities can also apply to the Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to create small and medium-sized businesses and receive presidential grants.

The websites [www.kasb.tj](http://www.kasb.tj), [www.kor.tj](http://www.kor.tj) and [www.shugl.tj](http://www.shugl.tj) have been launched under labour and employment authorities in order to ensure the effective employment of people with disabilities and their wider access to the services. In addition to that, a Unified Portal on Adults Employment and Training in Tajikistan and a Database of students of primary vocational education institutions have been launched, which creates favorable conditions for access of employers to official and timely information.

Remote employment is one of modern ways of creating jobs for citizens, including for people with disabilities. To this end, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Republic

of Tajikistan and public organization "Ilmkhona" launched a project to help online job seekers improve their skills in accessing local jobs. Training courses are conducted on a free base within the framework of this project. The goal of the project is to introduce remote employment for young people.

In short, the public policy defines measures for activation of women, and it is aimed at implementing the principle of equal rights and freedoms of men and women and creating equal opportunities for their implementation, ensuring equal representation of men and women in various fields of activities, preventing and eliminating violence against women, which is an important factor in enhancing the role of women with disabilities in society.

**Qudratullo Qurbonzoda,**

Head of the Department of Social Protection of Population  
Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan



# How to communicate with persons with disabilities who have mobility problems



Remember that a wheelchair is a personal space of the person. Do not lean against it! Moving a wheelchair without the permission of the owner is similar to dragging a person without his permission.

If your offer is accepted, ask what needs to be done and act based on those guidelines and recommendations.

Always determine whether the venue of an event has accessible environment. Ask in advance what problems and obstacles exist and how they can be overcome.

If possible, make placement in a way that the faces are at the same level, so that your interlocutor does not look up.

Remember that people with mobility problems usually have good vision, hearing, and comprehension.

Before giving help, be sure to ask if help is needed? If it is necessary to open a heavy door or move on a carpet, offer your help.

First, move the wheelchair slowly, because the speed of its movement can increase sharply, and a sudden push will destroy the balance.

Do not tap the back or shoulder of a person sitting in a wheelchair.

If there are problems and obstacles to movement on the street or inside the building, warn in advance, so that the person has the opportunity to make a decision.

Don't think that the need for using a wheelchair is a tragedy. It is a tool for free movement (if there are no obstacles in the streets and buildings). There are people who use wheelchairs to save their power and move faster; they have not lost the ability to walk and can walk using crutches or other devices.

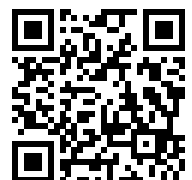


**ҲАР ЯКИ МО – ТАВОНО!**

Reprinted from the Facebook page of the information campaign

**"Each of us is strong!"**

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# Some tips about persons with disabilities



**Persons with disabilities and without disabilities have more in common than differences.**

**Children with disabilities often learn and develop better together with children without disabilities.**

**The more a person spends time with a child or an adult with disabilities, the less fear he will have.**

**Children and adults with disabilities can be sound, happy and productive individuals if they are provided with the access to education, rehabilitation and equal opportunities.**

**The best environment for the development of children with disabilities is a family. Children who grow up in their families are less vulnerable socially and psychologically, and develop better.**

**Children and adults with disabilities do not accept pity for themselves, but they want kindness, respect and equal opportunities.**

**If there are problems and obstacles to movement on the street or inside the building, warn in advance so that the person has the opportunity to make a decision.**

**Disability is not a "punishment" from God. It does not transmit from one person to another.**

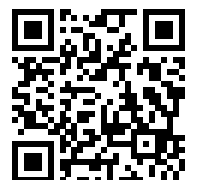
**Children with disabilities have the ability to learn many things if they are supported by their family, school and community.**

**Children with disabilities have the right to support from various sectors – health, education and social protection.**

Reprinted from children's booklets of the information campaign

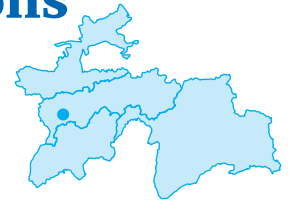
**"Each of us is strong!"**

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# Contact information of public organizations of persons with disabilities

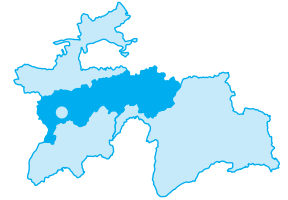
## Dushanbe



| ORGANIZATION  | ADDRESS  | CONTACT DETAILS   |
|---|--|---|
| National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan (NUPwD)                          | Official: K. Rakhimov 4 str.<br>Current: 46 microdistrict,<br>Sokhili str. | (37) 234-97-48; 234-97-45<br><a href="mailto:info@immt.tj">info@immt.tj</a><br><a href="mailto:azikrikhudoev@gmail.com">azikrikhudoev@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Blind society of Tajikistan   | Karamov str. 205.  | (44) 600-41-55; (44) 600-41-53<br><a href="mailto:tbu-tajiknet@mail.ru">tbu-tajiknet@mail.ru</a>  |
| National union of deaf persons of Tajikistan  | Rakhmon Nabiev str. 260.   | (+992) 988-27-38-88<br><a href="mailto:i.m.n.j.t@mail.ru">i.m.n.j.t@mail.ru</a>   |
| Society of persons with disabilities of Dushanbe city «Imkoniyat»                         | Official: K. Rakhimov 4 str.<br>Current: 46 microdistrict,<br>Sokhili str. | (37) 234-97-45; 234-97-46;<br>(+992) 988-52-10-10<br><a href="mailto:info@imkoniyat.tj">info@imkoniyat.tj</a><br><a href="mailto:f.hamroevbt@gmail.com">f.hamroevbt@gmail.com</a> |
| Society of persons with disabilities "MehrbaKhsh"   | Sino district, Tunisia str. 1/6,<br>x. 39.                                 | (+992) 988-87-96-96<br><a href="mailto:tengniev@yandex.ru">tengniev@yandex.ru</a>   |
| Paralympic National Committee of Tajikistan   | Aini str. 24.  | (+992) 555-55-49-55<br><a href="mailto:npc_tajikistan@yahoo.com">npc_tajikistan@yahoo.com</a>   |
| Federation of Disabled Athletes of the Republic of Tajikistan                             | Buston str, building 6.  | (+992) 907-11-55-85<br><a href="mailto:abduraup.alimov@mail.ru">abduraup.alimov@mail.ru</a>   |
| League of disabled women "Ishtirok"   | Bokhtar str. 37/1.   | (37) 227-22-45<br><a href="mailto:info@ishtirok.tj">info@ishtirok.tj</a>  |
| Parents Association of Disabled children  | Dekhoti str.50a.   | (37) 234-09-30; (+992) 907-88-23-32<br><a href="mailto:sabohat378@mail.ru">sabohat378@mail.ru</a>   |
| PO Youth with Disabilities "Noil"   | Karateginskaya str.,<br>building 3.  | (+992) 93-432-32-24<br><a href="mailto:noil.org@gmail.com">noil.org@gmail.com</a>   |
| PO "Nerubakhsh"   | Karateginskaya str.,<br>building 3.  | (+992) 907-07-34-54<br><a href="mailto:sano.raupova@gmail.com">sano.raupova@gmail.com</a>   |
| Initiative association of the parents with autism kids "Iroda"                            | Mushfiki str. 109.   | +992 (44) 625-44-84<br><a href="mailto:irodaparents.tj@gmail.com">irodaparents.tj@gmail.com</a>   |
| PSP with kids with disabilities "Inclusion Development"                                   | Mushfiki str. 61, building 47.   | (+992) 901-707-744<br><a href="mailto:rushdiinclusia@gmail.com">rushdiinclusia@gmail.com</a>  |
| Public Society of Parents with kids with Down syndrome (SyDo)                             | Fedina str., building. 12.   | (+992) 919-23-86-67<br><a href="mailto:zama60@rambler.ru">zama60@rambler.ru</a>   |
| "World of Social Development"   | Sino district, Karamov<br>str.205  | 555-55-35-04; 555-55-75-04<br><a href="mailto:sobirjon.safarov@drj-wcd.tj">sobirjon.safarov@drj-wcd.tj</a><br><a href="mailto:drj-wcd@drj-wcd.tj">drj-wcd@drj-wcd.tj</a>          |
| "Open hearts"   | Mayakovskogo str. 29/1.  | (+992) 906-00-93-06; (37) 235-70-13<br><a href="mailto:openhearts.tj@gmail.com">openhearts.tj@gmail.com</a>   |
| "Progress"  | A.Adhamov str. 21/2,<br>building 5.  | (+992) 555-55-49-55<br><a href="mailto:npc_tajikistan@mail.ru">npc_tajikistan@mail.ru</a>   |
| Society for the rights protection of deaf and blind persons of the Republic of Tajikistan | N.Makhsum str., building<br>102, room 13.                                  | (+992) 98-845-55-65<br><a href="mailto:info.deaf.and.deafblind.tjk@gmail.com">info.deaf.and.deafblind.tjk@gmail.com</a>   |
| Sign Language development and education Centre of the RT                                  | R. Nabiev str. 260.  | (37) 239-69-70<br><a href="mailto:nazokat2001@mail.ru">nazokat2001@mail.ru</a>  |

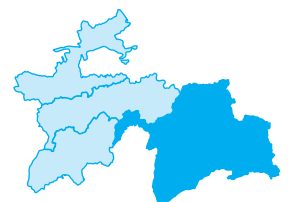


# Districts of Republican Subordination



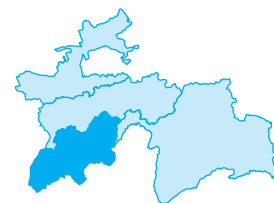
| ORGANIZATION  | ADDRESS   | CONTACT DETAILS   |
|---|---|---|
| Public Organization of Disabled Persons "Harakat"         | Rudaki region, community Chorgulteppa, village Chorsu     | (+992) 900-00-14-91<br><a href="mailto:harakat@list.ru">harakat@list.ru</a>                           |
| Society of Disabled persons of Hissar town                | Hissar town, T. Mukhiddinov str. 2.                       | (+992) 207-96-69-69   |
| Regional Society of Disabled persons of Tursunzade region | Tursunzoda region, I. Somoni str. 45, Dusti garden.       | (+992) 93-760-40-31;<br>919-14-22-61; 909-77-73-79  |
| Regional Society of Disabled Persons of Varzob region     | Varzob region, Mavzei Zoga, Building "B"                  | (+992) 919-55-40-43   |
| NUPwD branch in Vahdat city                               | Vahdat city, Somonien str.17                              | (+992) 900-77-88-24<br><a href="mailto:safarbegsaidov1980@gmail.com">safarbegsaidov1980@gmail.com</a> |
| NUPwD branch in Faizobod region                           | Faizobod region, I. Somoni str. 49.                       | (+992) 93-107-21-57<br><a href="mailto:hadiytullo0883.sm@bk.ru">hadiytullo0883.sm@bk.ru</a>           |
| NUPwD branch in Shahrinaw region                          | Shahrinaw region, I. Somoni str. 101.                     | (+992) 985-77-78-75   |
| NUPwD branch in Lakhsh district                           | Lakhsh district, Kaltabulok village                       | (+992) 93-302-10-52   |
| NUPwD branch in Sangvor district                          | Sangvor district, Sino str. District Government building. | (+992) 777-08-33-10<br><a href="mailto:gfrvalim@gmail.com">gfrvalim@gmail.com</a>                     |
| NUPwD branch in Rogun city                                | Rogun city, Norakien str. 50.                             | (+992) 777-00-50-43<br><a href="mailto:anora.v@mail.ru">anora.v@mail.ru</a>                           |
| NUPwD branch in Rasht region                              | Rasht region, Garm town.                                  | (+992) 989-04-34-08<br><a href="mailto:zamonov-93@mail.ru">zamonov-93@mail.ru</a>                     |

# Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region



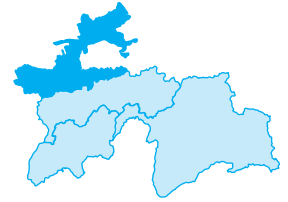
| ORGANIZATION  | ADDRESS                                  | CONTACT DETAILS   |
|---|--|---|
| Parents Association of Disabled kids "Savob"                                    | Khorog city, Shohtemur str.              | (+992) 35-222-27-68;<br>(+992) 93-513-12-13<br><a href="mailto:laylo.nafasshoeva@gmail.com">laylo.nafasshoeva@gmail.com</a>   |
| Public Organization of Disabled Persons-Information Resource Centre "Inclusion" | Khorog city, Milikbekov str. 7.          | (+992) 93 417 62 84<br><a href="mailto:farida.alibakhshova@gmail.com">farida.alibakhshova@gmail.com</a>                       |
| "Gamkhor"   | Rushan district, Rushan village, Pichuv. | (+992) 93-500-79-84;<br>(+992) 900-30-58-11<br><a href="mailto:chilla.mirzomamadova@mail.ru">chilla.mirzomamadova@mail.ru</a> |

# Khatlon Region

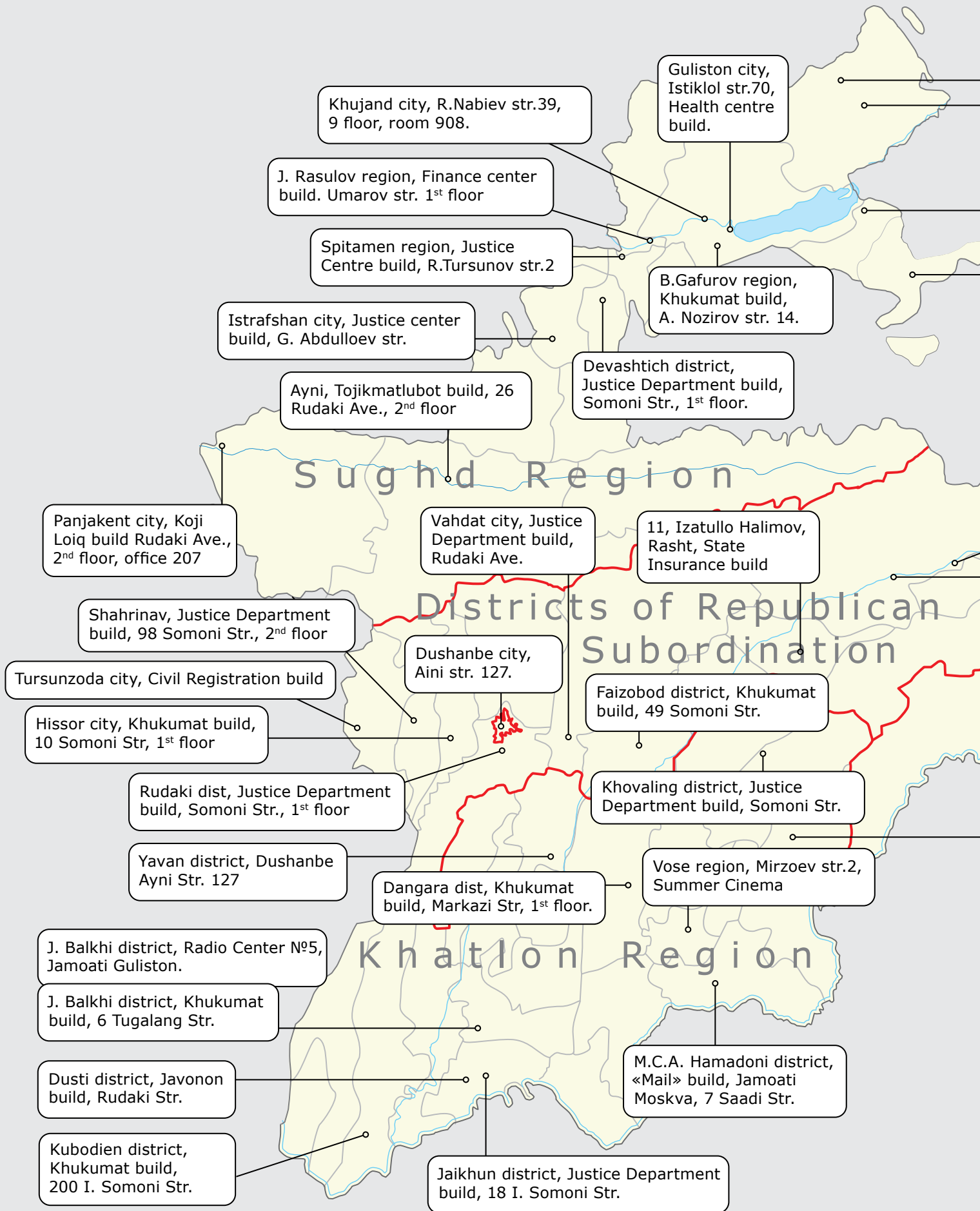


| ORGANIZATION  | ADDRESS   | CONTACT DETAILS   |
|---|---|---|
| NUPwD branch in Timurmalik region                         | Timurmalik region, Soviet town, I. Somoni str., building 32.  | (+992) 985-53-76-59;<br>(+992) 908-28-00-39<br><a href="mailto:karimov1959@internet.ru">karimov1959@internet.ru</a> |
| NUPwD branch in Abdurakhmon Jomi region                   | Jomi town, Somonien str. 24, Building of Finance Committee.   | (+992) 902-10-52-54   |
| NUPwD branch in Bohtar city                               | Vahdat str. 208.  | (+992) 919-54-23-54;<br>(+992) 555-54-23-54<br><a href="mailto:abdusamad06@mail.ru">abdusamad06@mail.ru</a>         |
| NUPwD branch in Yavon region                              | Mirzo Tursunzade str.   | (+992) 93-409-16-05   |
| NUPwD branch in Nosiri Husrav region                      | Nosiri Husrav region, village Beshkapa, Nowruz community  | (+992) 918-57-85-17   |
| NUPwD branch in Vakhsh region                             | Vakhsh district, L. Sherali str. 7/10.  | (+992) 93-843-05-49   |
| NUPwD branch in Kubodiyen region                          | Kubodiyen region, entrepreneur's society N.Husrav, Guzari Bolo village.                             | (+992) 93-451-27-74   |
| NUPwD branch in Shakhritus region                         | Shakhritus region, J.Kholmatov, Chorshanbe village.   | (+992) 93-583-01-22   |
| NUPwD branch in Jaukhun district                          | Jaukhun district, Vahdani Milli society, village Haiyoti Naw  | (+992) 93-587-61-36   |
| NUPwD branch in Dangara region                            | Dangara region, Markazi str, "Youth Center" building  | (+992) 907-56-81-41   |
| Society of Disabled Persons "Ravonbakhsh" Hamadoni region | Hamadoni region, society Dashtigulo   | (+992) 918-68-42-13<br><a href="mailto:m.zaynullo@mail.ru">m.zaynullo@mail.ru</a>                                   |
| "Zarshedabonu"  | Kulyab city, Khatti Rog 117.  | (+992) 93-500-71-47<br><a href="mailto:zarshedabonu@mail.ru">zarshedabonu@mail.ru</a>                               |
| NUPwD branch in Jaloliddin Balkhi district                |   | (+992) 985-05-91-49   |
| NUPwD branch in Khuroson district                         | Khuroson district, Kizilkalia entrepreneur's society, Sarband village, building 51.                 | (+992) 918-68-08-47   |
| NUPwD branch in Baljuvon district                         | Baljuvon district, Baljuvon community   | (+992) 905-09-76-76;<br>98-511-13-75; 900-01-30-33  |
| Public Society of women with disabilities "Durakhshon"    | Kushoniyen district, agricultural community Kushoniyen, Mekhnatobod, building of Primary School №4. | (+992) 917-91-58-08   |

# Sughd Region



| ORGANIZATION   | ADDRESS  | CONTACT DETAILS   |
|--|--|---|
| NUPwD branch in Spitamen district  | Spitamen district, community Nawkat, 6/68, building. 2.                              | (+992) 92-731-42-42   |
| NUPwD branch in Devashtich district  | Devashtich district, Gonchi city, Gulbog str. B / 47.                                | (+992) 917-67-83-40   |
| Society of Disabled persons Maschoh region   | Maschoh region, Sughdion community   | (+992) 92-759-58-65   |
| Society of Disabled Persons of Asht region   | Isfara city, Nawobod region 1.   | (+992) 92-830-69-65;<br>(+992) 918-72-64-40   |
| Society of Disabled Persons "Mehr" of Isfara city                                      | ш. Исфара, н. Навобод, кӯчаи Навобод 1.  | (+992) 988-99-47-06<br><a href="mailto:jam0186jam@gmail.com">jam0186jam@gmail.com</a>                         |
| Public organization of Disabled Persons "Madad" Guliston city                          | Guliston city, Muhin str. 20.  | (+992) 92-725-98-46   |
| NUPwD branch in Bobojon Gafurov region   | B.Gafurov region, Isfisor community, A. Musobeckov str.19.                           | (+992) 907-45-95-57<br><a href="mailto:ramziddin88@gmail.com">ramziddin88@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Society of Disabled Persons of Istravshan city   | Istravshan city, Oli Somoni str. 4a.   | (+992) 918-42-59-90   |
| NUPwD branch in Buston city  | Buston city, Kalinin str. 15a.   | (+992) 907-42-13-15   |
| Society "Shohsanam" of Youth with disabilities and parents with kids with disabilities | Buston city, Oplanchuk str. 6.   | (+992) 92-716-98-84<br><a href="mailto:shokhsanam2012@gmail.com">shokhsanam2012@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Society of Disabled Persons Khujand city and Sughd region                              | Khujand city, 3 microdistrict.   | (+992) 92-885-19-53<br><a href="mailto:alisher01@mail.ru">alisher01@mail.ru</a>                               |
| NGO "Parents of children with different development stage"                             | Khujand city, 16 microdistrict, Building 1, room 4, near traffic police Sughd region | (+992) 92-704-19-41<br><a href="mailto:nazira-jomi@mail.ru">nazira-jomi@mail.ru</a>                           |
| "Manbai Mehr"  | Khujand city, district 20, Kids food №26.  | (+992) 92-732-19-58;<br>(+992) 92-809-91-10<br><a href="mailto:manbaimehr@gmail.com">manbaimehr@gmail.com</a> |
| Society "Support to Disabled Persons" Aini region                                      | Aini region, Rudaki str. 37/   | (+992) 988-08-89-98;<br>(+992) 92-997-67-76<br><a href="mailto:khisrav174@mail.ru">khisrav174@mail.ru</a>     |
| Public Organization of Women with Disabilities "Safoi Kanibadam"                       | Kanibadam city, Yodgorov str. 79.  | (+992) 92-911-31-32<br><a href="mailto:safai.konibodom@gmail.com">safai.konibodom@gmail.com</a>               |
| Society of Disabled Persons of Maschohi Kuhi   |  | (+992) 88-303-33-30<br><a href="mailto:fmehrovar@gmail.com">fmehrovar@gmail.com</a>                           |



Asht region, build of Pongoz community.

Asht region, Khukumat build, I. Somoni 6.

Kanibadam city, Ecology build, K. Hujandi str 5.

Isfara city, Justice Centre, Central str. 27.

## Free Legal Aid centers available for People with disabilities

Locations of state lawyers in cities and regions of the Republic of Tajikistan. Since the establishment of the Legal Assistance Centre of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan state lawyers have been providing free legal assistance to the residents of 34 cities and districts (from March 2016 till January 2021).

**Work schedule: Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Tojikobod region, I.Somoni str. 21, build Microfinance bank, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Rasht region, State Insurance build, 98 Somoni Str., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Vanj region, 36 M.Rakhmonsho str.

Muminobod region, Justice Department build, 54 Davlatov str.

Gorno - Badakhshan Autonomous Region

Khorug city, Justice Department build, 14 Gagarin str., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

More on the website

[www.salac.tj/contacts](http://www.salac.tj/contacts)



# United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## Preamble

(a) Recalling the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations which recognize the inherent dignity and worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

(b) Recognizing that the United Nations, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, has proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind,

(c) Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination,

(d) Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

(e) Recognizing that disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,

(f) Recognizing the importance of the principles and policy guidelines contained in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and in the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in influencing the promotion, formulation and evaluation of the policies, plans, programmes and actions at the national, regional and international levels to further equalize opportunities for persons with disabilities,

(g) Emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant strategies of sustainable development,

(h) Recognizing also that discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person,

(i) Recognizing further the diversity of persons with disabilities,

(j) Recognizing the need to promote and protect the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including those who require more intensive support,

(k) Concerned that, despite these various instruments and undertakings, persons with disabilities continue to face barriers in their participation as equal members of society and violations of their human rights in all parts of the world,

(l) Recognizing the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in every country, particularly in developing countries,

(m) Recognizing the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty,

(n) Recognizing the importance for persons with disabilities of their individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices,

(o) Considering that persons with disabilities should have the opportunity to be actively involved in decision-making processes about policies and programmes, including those directly concerning them,

(p) Concerned about the difficult conditions faced by persons with disabilities who are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, property, birth, age or other status,

(q) Recognizing that women and girls with disabilities are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation,

(r) Recognizing that children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, and recalling obligations to that end undertaken by States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

(s) Emphasizing the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities,

(t) Highlighting the fact that the majority of persons with disabilities live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities,

(u) Bearing in mind that conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of persons with disabilities, in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation,

(v) Recognizing the importance of accessibility to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, in enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

(w) Realizing that the individual, having duties to other individuals and to the community to which he or she belongs, is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of the rights recognized in the International Bill of Human Rights,

(x) Convinced that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities,

(y) Convinced that a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities will make a significant contribution to redressing the profound social disadvantage of persons with disabilities and promote their participation in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres with equal opportunities, in both developing and developed countries,

Have agreed as follows:

## **Article 1**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

## **Article 2**

### **Definitions**

For the purposes of the present Convention:

“Communication” includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology;

“Language” includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of non-spoken languages;

“Discrimination on the basis of disability” means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation;

“Reasonable accommodation” means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

“Universal design” means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. “Universal design” shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed.

## **Article 3**

### **General principles**

The principles of the present Convention shall be:

Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons;

Non-discrimination;

Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;

Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;

Equality of opportunity;

Accessibility;

Equality between men and women;

Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.



## **Article 4**

### **General obligations**

States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. To this end, States Parties undertake:

To adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention;

To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities;

To take into account the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programmes;

To refrain from engaging in any act or practice that is inconsistent with the present Convention and to ensure that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with the present Convention;

To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability by any person, organization or private enterprise;

To undertake or promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, which should require the minimum possible adaptation and the least cost to meet the specific needs of a person with disabilities, to promote their availability and use, and to promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines;

To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost;

To provide accessible information to persons with disabilities about mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, including new technologies, as well as other forms of assistance, support services and facilities;

To promote the training of professionals and staff working with persons with disabilities in the rights recognized in this Convention so as to better provide the assistance and services guaranteed by those rights.

With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, each State Party undertakes to take measures to the maximum of its available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the present Convention that are immediately applicable according to international law.

In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and which may be contained in the law of a State Party or international law in force for that State. There shall be no restriction upon or derogation from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized or existing in any State Party to the present Convention pursuant to law, conventions, regulation or custom on the pretext that the present Convention does not recognize such rights or freedoms or that it recognizes them to a lesser extent.

The provisions of the present Convention shall extend to all parts of federal states without any limitations or exceptions.

## **Article 5**

### **Equality and non-discrimination**

States Parties recognize that all persons are equal before and under the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law.

States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.

In order to promote equality and eliminate discrimination, States Parties shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided.

Specific measures which are necessary to accelerate or achieve de facto equality of persons with disabilities shall not be considered discrimination under the terms of the present Convention.

## **Article 6**

### **Women with disabilities**

States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.

## **Article 7**

### **Children with disabilities**

States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.

In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.

## **Article 8**

### **Awareness-raising**

States Parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures:

To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;

To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life;

To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.

Measures to this end include:

Initiating and maintaining effective public awareness campaigns designed:

To nurture receptiveness to the rights of persons with disabilities;

To promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities;

To promote recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities, and of their contributions to the workplace and the labour market;

Fostering at all levels of the education system, including in all children from an early age, an attitude of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities;

Encouraging all organs of the media to portray persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the purpose of the present Convention;

Promoting awareness-training programmes regarding persons with disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities.

## **Article 9**

### **Accessibility**

To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;

Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

States Parties shall also take appropriate measures to:

Develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;

Ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;

Provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;

Provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;

Provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;

Promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;

Promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;

Promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

## **Article 10**

### **Right to life**

States Parties reaffirm that every human being has the inherent right to life and shall take all necessary measures to ensure its effective enjoyment by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

## **Article 11**

### **Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**

States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

## **Article 12**

### **Equal recognition before the law**

States Parties reaffirm that persons with disabilities have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law.

States Parties shall recognize that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.

States Parties shall take appropriate measures to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity.

States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse in accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will and preferences of the person, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to the person's circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect the person's rights and interests.

Subject to the provisions of this article, States Parties shall take all appropriate and effective measures to ensure the equal right of persons with disabilities to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, and shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not arbitrarily deprived of their property.

## **Article 13**

### **Access to justice**

States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages.

In order to help to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, States Parties shall promote appropriate training for those working in the field of administration of justice, including police and prison staff.

## **Article 14**

### **Liberty and security of the person**

States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others:

Enjoy the right to liberty and security of person;

Are not deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and that any deprivation of liberty is in conformity with the law, and that the existence of a disability shall in no case justify a deprivation of liberty.

States Parties shall ensure that if persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty through any process, they are, on an equal basis with others, entitled to guarantees in accordance with international human rights law and shall be treated in compliance with the objectives and principles of this Convention, including by provision of reasonable accommodation.

## **Article 15**

### **Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his or her free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

States Parties shall take all effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, from being subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

## **Article 16**

### **Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse**

States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.

States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.

In order to prevent the occurrence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, States Parties shall ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including through the provision of protection services. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment that fosters the health, welfare, self-respect, dignity and autonomy of the person and takes into account gender- and age-specific needs.

States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women- and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation,

violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted.

## **Article 17**

### **Protecting the integrity of the person**

Every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others.

## **Article 18**

### **Liberty of movement and nationality**

States Parties shall recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring that persons with disabilities:

Have the right to acquire and change a nationality and are not deprived of their nationality arbitrarily or on the basis of disability;

Are not deprived, on the basis of disability, of their ability to obtain, possess and utilize documentation of their nationality or other documentation of identification, or to utilize relevant processes such as immigration proceedings, that may be needed to facilitate exercise of the right to liberty of movement;

Are free to leave any country, including their own;

Are not deprived, arbitrarily or on the basis of disability, of the right to enter their own country.

Children with disabilities shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by their parents.

## **Article 19**

### **Living independently and being included in the community**

States Parties to this Convention recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that:

Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;

Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.

## **Article 20**

### **Personal mobility**

States Parties shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, including by:

Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the manner and at the time of their choice, and at affordable cost;

Facilitating access by persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including by making them available at affordable cost;

Providing training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to specialist staff working with persons with disabilities;

Encouraging entities that produce mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to take into account all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities.

## **Article 21**

### **Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, including by:

Providing information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost;

Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions;

Urging private entities that provide services to the general public, including through the Internet, to provide information and services in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities;

Encouraging the mass media, including providers of information through the Internet, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities;

Recognizing and promoting the use of sign languages.

## **Article 22**

### **Respect for privacy**

No person with disabilities, regardless of place of residence or living arrangements, shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or correspondence or other types of communication or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. Persons with disabilities have the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

States Parties shall protect the privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

## **Article 23**

### **Respect for home and the family**

States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, so as to ensure that:

The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses is recognized;

The rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to age-appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education are recognized, and the means necessary to enable them to exercise these rights are provided;

Persons with disabilities, including children, retain their fertility on an equal basis with others.

States Parties shall ensure the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities, with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship, adoption of children or similar institutions, where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the best interests of the child shall be paramount. States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.

States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. With a view to realizing these rights, and to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.

States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. In no case shall a child be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents.

States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care within the wider family, and failing that, within the community in a family setting.

## **Article 24**

### **Education**

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and life long learning directed to:

The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity;

The development by persons with disabilities of their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential;

Enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in a free society.

In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that:

Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from free and compulsory primary education, or from secondary education, on the basis of disability;

Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live;

Reasonable accommodation of the individual's requirements is provided;

Persons with disabilities receive the support required, within the general education system, to facilitate their effective education;

Effective individualized support measures are provided in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion.



States Parties shall enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community. To this end, States Parties shall take appropriate measures, including:

Facilitating the learning of Braille, alternative script, augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication and orientation and mobility skills, and facilitating peer support and mentoring;

Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community;

Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf or deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.

In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.

States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities.

## **Article 25**

### **Health**

States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation. In particular, States Parties shall:

Provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes;

Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons;

Provide these health services as close as possible to people's own communities, including in rural areas;

Require health professionals to provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent by, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and needs of persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care;

Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance where such insurance is permitted by national law, which shall be provided in a fair and reasonable manner;

Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of disability.

## **Article 26**

### **Habilitation and rehabilitation**

States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures, including through peer support, to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life. To that end, States Parties shall organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, in such a way that these services and programmes:

Begin at the earliest possible stage, and are based on the multidisciplinary assessment of individual needs and strengths;

Support participation and inclusion in the community and all aspects of society, are voluntary, and are available to persons with disabilities as close as possible to their own communities, including in rural areas.

States Parties shall promote the development of initial and continuing training for professionals and staff working in habilitation and rehabilitation services.

States Parties shall promote the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation.

## **Article 27**

### **Work and employment**

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia:

Prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions;

Protect the rights of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to just and favourable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances;

Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour and trade union rights on an equal basis with others;

Enable persons with disabilities to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and vocational and continuing training;

Promote employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment;

Promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business;

Employ persons with disabilities in the public sector;

Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures, which may include affirmative action programmes, incentives and other measures;

Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace;

Promote the acquisition by persons with disabilities of work experience in the open labour market;

Promote vocational and professional rehabilitation, job retention and return-to-work programmes for persons with disabilities.

States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery or in servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labour.

## **Article 28**

### **Adequate standard of living and social protection**

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures:

To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs;

To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes;

To ensure access by persons with disabilities and their families living in situations of poverty to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses, including adequate training, counselling, financial assistance and respite care;

To ensure access by persons with disabilities to public housing programmes;

To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to retirement benefits and programmes.

## **Article 29**

### **Participation in political and public life**

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake to:

Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:

Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;

Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively

hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;

Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;

Promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:

Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;

Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.

## **Article 30**

### **Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport**

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities:

Enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats;

Enjoy access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats;

Enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, enjoy access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance.

States Parties shall take appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society.

States Parties shall take all appropriate steps, in accordance with international law, to ensure that laws protecting intellectual property rights do not constitute an unreasonable or discriminatory barrier to access by persons with disabilities to cultural materials.

Persons with disabilities shall be entitled, on an equal basis with others, to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture.

With a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:

To encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels;

To ensure that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities and, to this end, encourage the provision, on an equal basis with others, of appropriate instruction, training and resources;

To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues;

To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system;

To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.

### **Article 31**

#### **Statistics and data collection**

States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and maintaining this information shall:

Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;

Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.

The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of States Parties' obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others.

### **Article 32**

#### **International cooperation**

States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia:

Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;

Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;

Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies.

The provisions of this article are without prejudice to the obligations of each State Party to fulfil its obligations under the present Convention.

### **Article 33**

#### **National implementation and monitoring**

States Parties, in accordance with their system of organization, shall designate one or more focal points within government for matters relating to the implementation of the present Convention, and shall give due consideration to the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism within government to facilitate related action in different sectors and at different levels.

States Parties shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State Party, a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the present Convention. When designating or establishing

such a mechanism, States Parties shall take into account the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights.

Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.

## **Article 34**

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

There shall be established a Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereafter referred to as "the Committee"), which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.

The Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Convention, of twelve experts. After an additional sixty ratifications or accessions to the Convention, the membership of the Committee shall increase by six members, attaining a maximum number of eighteen members.

The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the present Convention. When nominating their candidates, States Parties are invited to give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4.3 of the present Convention.

The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties, consideration being given to 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.

The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties from among their nationals at meetings of the Conference of States Parties. At those meetings, for which two thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the present Convention. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit the nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the State Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.

The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election once. However, the term of six of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these six members shall be chosen by lot by the chairperson of the meeting referred to in paragraph 5 of this article.

The election of the six additional members of the Committee shall be held on the occasion of regular elections, in accordance with the relevant provisions of this article.

If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause she or he can no longer perform her or his duties, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert possessing the qualifications and meeting the requirements set out in the relevant provisions of this article, to serve for the remainder of the term.

The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention, and shall convene its initial meeting.

With the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.

The members of the Committee shall be entitled to the facilities, privileges and immunities of experts on mission for the United Nations as laid down in the relevant sections of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

## **Article 35**

### **Reports by States Parties**

Each State Party shall submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention and on the progress made in that regard, within two years after the entry into force of the present Convention for the State Party concerned.

Thereafter, States Parties shall submit subsequent reports at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

The Committee shall decide any guidelines applicable to the content of the reports.

A State Party which has submitted a comprehensive initial report to the Committee need not, in its subsequent reports, repeat information previously provided. When preparing reports to the Committee, States Parties are invited to consider doing so in an open and transparent process and to give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4.3 of the present Convention.

Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present Convention.

## **Article 36**

### **Consideration of reports**

Each report shall be considered by the Committee, which shall make such suggestions and general recommendations on the report as it may consider appropriate and shall forward these to the State Party concerned. The State Party may respond with any information it chooses to the Committee. The Committee may request further information from States Parties relevant to the implementation of the present Convention.

If a State Party is significantly overdue in the submission of a report, the Committee may notify the State Party concerned of the need to examine the implementation of the present Convention in that State Party, on the basis of reliable information available to the Committee, if the relevant report is not submitted within three months following the notification. The Committee shall invite the State Party concerned to participate in such examination. Should the State Party respond by submitting the relevant report, the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article will apply.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall make available the reports to all States Parties.

States Parties shall make their reports widely available to the public in their own countries and facilitate access to the suggestions and general recommendations relating to these reports.

The Committee shall transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, and other competent bodies,

reports from States Parties in order to address a request or indication of a need for technical advice or assistance contained therein, along with the Committee's observations and recommendations, if any, on these requests or indications.

## **Article 37**

### **Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee**

Each State Party shall cooperate with the Committee and assist its members in the fulfilment of their mandate.

In its relationship with States Parties, the Committee shall give due consideration to ways and means of enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the present Convention, including through international cooperation.

## **Article 38**

### **Relationship of the Committee with other bodies**

In order to foster the effective implementation of the present Convention and to encourage international cooperation in the field covered by the present Convention:

The specialized agencies and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee may invite specialized agencies and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

The Committee, as it discharges its mandate, shall consult, as appropriate, other relevant bodies instituted by international human rights treaties, with a view to ensuring the consistency of their respective reporting guidelines, suggestions and general recommendations, and avoiding duplication and overlap in the performance of their functions.

## **Article 39**

### **Report of the Committee**

The Committee shall report every two years to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on its activities, and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

## **Article 40**

### **Conference of States Parties**

The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention.

No later than six months after the entry into force of the present Convention, the Conference of the States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations biennially or upon the decision of the Conference of States Parties.



## **Article 41**

### **Depositary**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Convention.

## **Article 42**

### **Signature**

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States and by regional integration organizations at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 30 March 2007.

## **Article 43**

### **Consent to be bound**

The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States and to formal confirmation by signatory regional integration organizations. It shall be open for accession by any State or regional integration organization which has not signed the Convention.

## **Article 44**

### **Regional integration organizations**

“Regional integration organization” shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention. Such organizations shall declare, in their instruments of formal confirmation or accession, the extent of their competence with respect to matters governed by this Convention. Subsequently, they shall inform the depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.

References to “States Parties” in the present Convention shall apply to such organizations within the limits of their competence.

3. For the purposes of article 45, paragraph 1, and article 47, paragraphs 2 and 3, any instrument deposited by a regional integration organization shall not be counted.

Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the Conference of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to this Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

## **Article 45**

### **Entry into force**

The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

For each State or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confirming or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the twentieth such instrument, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own such instrument.

## **Article 46**

### **Reservations**

Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.

Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

## **Article 47**

### **Amendments**

Any State Party may propose an amendment to the present Convention and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States Parties, with a request to be notified whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States Parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for approval and thereafter to all States Parties for acceptance.

An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State Party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States Parties which have accepted it.

If so decided by the Conference of States Parties by consensus, an amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article which relates exclusively to articles 34, 38, 39 and 40 shall enter into force for all States Parties on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment.

## **Article 48**

### **Denunciation**

A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

## **Article 49**

### **Accessible format**

The text of the present Convention shall be made available in accessible formats.

## **Article 50**

### **Authentic texts**

The Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the present Convention shall be equally authentic.

In witness thereof the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.



**Government of the Republic of Tajikistan**

**RESOLUTION**

February 27, 2020

№116

Dushanbe

**According to the National Action plan for the preparation  
of the Republic of Tajikistan for the ratification and implementation  
of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

In accordance with Article 16 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan” the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan decides:

1. Approve the National Action Plan for the readiness of the Republic of Tajikistan to ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (attached).
2. Relevant ministries and departments and local governments take the necessary measures to implement this plan and submit information by February 1 of each year to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan.
3. To the Ministry of Health and Population Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, by March 1 of each year, provide information on the implementation of this plan to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Chairman  
Government of the  
Republic of Tajikistan

Emomali Rahmon

# **National Plan of Action to prepare the Republic of Tajikistan for ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

## **1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. National Plan of Action to prepare the Republic of Tajikistan for ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (further referred to as Plan of Action) has been developed in accordance with the Article 16 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan", Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On social protection of persons with disabilities" as well as for the purpose of implementation of the National Action Plan on implementation of the recommendations of the member-states of the United Nations Human Rights Council according to the procedures of the Universal Periodic Review (second phase) for the period of 2017–2020 approved by the decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on 7 June 2017, No 901.

2. National Plan is a political will of the Republic of Tajikistan, the full-fledged member of the world society, the member of the United Nations (further referred to as the UN), which will facilitate the phase-by-phase preparedness of the relevant social and economic prerequisites for ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability (further referred to as CRPD). It is based on provisions and principals of conventions and international acts, recognized by the Republic of Tajikistan. CRPD is signed by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on 22 March 2018 in the UN Headquarters in New York, USA.

3. The Plan of Action has social and legal nature, its implementation with consideration of Sustainable Development Goals for the period up to 2030, reflects perspectives for the long-term development of Tajikistan, mentioned in the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 and is directed to strengthening the rights of persons with disabilities and changing the attitude to disabled people from CRPD's point of view.

4. Disability applies to all spheres of governmental and administrative management, political involvement, economic development, social and family environment, and requires obligations, responsibility and involvement of different stakeholders, including state structures, private sector and civil society. Disability requires a thorough and clear approach in all aspects related to policy making and service provision.

5. Just like all other citizens, persons with disabilities have a right for respectful, equitable relations in the society as well as rights to have equal access to all systems, including education, social protection, rehabilitation, healthcare and skills development programs, employment, access to justice and other spheres of life for self-development purposes as well as rightful participation. The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan agrees with the position of the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, and recognizes disability as a multi-sectoral (social, healthcare, human rights and development priorities related) issue.

6. The National Plan is like a "road map" and is the main document that is intended to ensure creating of necessary conditions and mechanisms for implementation of provisions of CRPD in our country by consolidating efforts of the government bodies and civil society institutions.

## **2. SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

7. According to official statistics there are around 150 000 persons with disabilities officially registered in Tajikistan as at 1 December 2019, including 27 329 children with disabilities representing around 1.6% of the total population of the country (9 126, 600). Complete picture of the situation of persons with disability, achievements and problems of the sector are reflected in the National Program on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disability for the period of 2017–2020 approved by the decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on 28 October 2016, No 455.

8. Persons with disabilities, just like all citizens, have equal rights that are mentioned in the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan and other international legislative acts. In addition to that there has been a number of laws and regulations development and approved in Tajikistan that determine the order of their implementation. For instance, the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On social protection of persons with disabilities” determines the legal, economic and organizational bases for the social protection of disabled people and provides for equal rights and equal opportunities in life as well as their integration in the society.

9. The above mentioned law clearly states the main definitions in regards to disability, principals of social protection of disabled people, the obligations of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, state central authorities and local government executive bodies in the sphere of social protection of persons with disability.

10. The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On social protection of disable persons” is mainly focused on social protection of persons with disabilities and the issues related to the rights of persons with disabilities in the sphere of justice, civil legal capacity, family relations and others have not been covered precisely and fully. Though there are certain provisions in regards to this issue in other sector specific legislation, namely in the Civil Code, Labor Code, Family Code and others.

11. There are no specific methods to identify disability while working with disable persons and other citizens in Tajikistan, there is mainly a model used that is of a medical and charity nature. However, there are social themes and principals of international legal norms, including the ones of CRPD, that are used in sectoral programs and activities of the designated bodies.

12. Medical and charity model is mostly used when working with children and persons with group 1 disability, children before age 2 are not given any disability categories and they are dealt with by the state healthcare institutions and early intervention services.

13. There is a need to conduct a comprehensive analysis of all laws and regulations to identify the above mentioned gaps and inconsistencies of the acting legislative provisions of Tajikistan with the international legislative acts, particularly the ones of CRPD, for development of target-oriented normative legal acts that would consider gender-sensitive aspects as well as physical and mental capabilities and personal responsibility of people with disability.

14. In spite of the fact that in Tajik society persons with disability are treated with traditional benevolence and care, discrimination is sometimes observed, even though it is forbidden by the law.

15. In most cases people with disability, even the ones who are able to work do not strive to become employed or get a profession that would bring them certain level of income. People with disability and members of their family often are not aware of their rights and do not have enough of legal knowledge, therefore, have limited access to education and do not participate in social life.

16. The conditions for the persons with disabilities to organize public associations are created in Tajikistan, they have a right to create civil associations to protect their rights and interests and ensure equal opportunities for themselves along with other citizens. Civil Society

Unions and Organizations of persons with disabilities benefit from tax reliefs in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

17. For the several last years in accordance with the current legislation 20 civil society unions that have certain amount of experience in rendering social assistance to children with disabilities have been financed by the government through the government social order to help them in their activities to create social services centers for this category of citizens.

18. State expenditures are estimated at more than 15% of the state budget and equals to 4.7% of the GDP. Financing of social institutions increases every year.

19. Social protection of people with disabilities and care in particular is under constant control of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Leader of the Nation, respected Emomali Rahmon, and further to his personal initiative and direct support there have been tens of social institutions and centers of social services created and functioning. There are more than 100 government organizations functioning in the system of social protection of population to provide services to people with disabilities, every year thousands of disabled persons are provided with different types of social services.

20. In addition, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan regularly stresses out the necessity to develop the system of social protection of population, particularly for persons with disabilities, and gives concise instructions. In January 2015 the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Leader of the Nation, respected Emomali Rahmon noted that "the activities of social protection institutions focused on rendering social support to persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups of population requires serious reforms".

21. In spite of the achievements and positive tendencies in financing the sector, the volume, quality and accessibility of provided services remain insufficient, and additional measure have to be taken.

22. Implementation of additional measures and strengthening the work in administering, managing and implementing the provisions of legislation on local levels to prepare the Republic of Tajikistan for ratification of the CRPD are seen as an important factors and their implementation, including the provisions of CRPD, will be done based on the current Plan of Action that is an integral element of the state social policy.

23. Ratification of the CRPD envisages preparing internal system for implementation of obligations that, according to the Convention, need to be fulfilled by the member-states. This preparedness starts with two main steps mentioned in the Article 4 (1) of CRPD: adoption of legislative, administrative and other norms in accordance with CRPD and excluding the norms contradicting the CRPD.

24. Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights notes that "one of the measures that the State needs to take in order to implement the Convention is conducting the comprehensive analysis of the national legislation and policies concerning the persons with disabilities. Such a review has to be conducted very thoroughly and should not be limited to just clause-by-clause revision of Convention but envisage a more holistic approach to this process stressing the interrelatedness and impartibility of human rights... According to Convention, such review has to involve civil society organizations and organizations of disabled people."

25. Activities of the Plan of Action have been developed with consideration of above mentioned measures and mainly include the following directions:

- improving the legislation to ensure its conformity with provisions of CRDP;
- improving the conditions for participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society's life, increasing personal responsibility and facilitating self-sufficiency in using one's own potential in social and personal life;
- creating favorable social environment and accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- increasing the legal knowledge of disabled persons and their families, increasing information campaigns on the issues of disability and promoting healthy life style.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO PREPARE  
THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN FOR RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION  
OF CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 2024**

| <b>Priorities on Convention</b> | <b>Name of the activity</b>   | <b>Period of im-plementation</b> | <b>Executors</b>         | <b>Source of financing</b>  |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>1. General provisions</b>    |   |                                  |                          |   |
| Article 4(1)                    | <p>1.1. Development of the schedule for revising sectoral legislation to bring it in conformity with the CRDP, including developing of Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On social protection of persons with disabilities" in its new edition or introducing changes and additions to it. Complex revision of norms and provisions related to material and procedural legislation regulating civil law, criminal law and administrative law as well as laws that regulate elections and participation in the elections, migration and citizenship right, right to access the information, rights of people that are in detention facilities, insurance right, rights for education, employment, health, including psychiatric health and a right for complete compulsory health assessment and treatment, family legal relations, guardianship and patronage, rights for social security services, security legislation etc.</p> <p>1.2. Introducing changes and additions to the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan on: elections, civil procedures, taxes, civil law, housing law, labor law, family law, healthcare, administrative violations law, criminal procedural law, execution of criminal sanctions, economic procedural law, enforcement proceedings, practice of law, right to access to information, protection of personal data, applications from individuals and legal entities, civil registration, notary system, state protection and support of entrepreneurial activities, state language and others.</p> <p>1.3. To develop and adopt an updated Instructions on medical and social expert evaluation.</p> | 2020–2023                        | IWGEAP, RMI,<br>NLC, HRO | Technical assistance of development partners and other non-budgetary sources. |
|                                 |   | 2020–2023                        |                          |   |
|                                 |   | 2020–2023                        | MHSPP                    |   |

|               |  |                   |                                       |  |
|---------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Article 33(2) | 1.4. Analysis of the issue related to creating public committee (or a council) on the rights of people with disabilities at the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan.  | 2020–2021         | MHSPP, HRO upon agreement with MNMORT |  |
| Article 4(1)  | 1.5. Strengthen the status of the sign language and the Braille Alphabet.  | 2020              | CLT, MES, MJ, AS                      | Doesn't require financing from the government budget, technical support from development partners.                                   |
| Article 4(3)  | 1.6. Revision of the issue of creating the vacancy of the specialist on the issues of disabled people and the advisor on the issues of disability in Local Executive Bodies of the State Authority LEBSA   | 2021–2022         | CLD, LEBSA                            | Within the framework of the budgets of social organizations, technical support of development partners, other non-budgetary sources. |
| Article 19    | 1.7. Strengthen the process of de-institutionalization of some forms of social service-provision through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Development of new rules for accepting residents to full-care institutions (houses/boarding schools);</li> <li>— Development of home-based support through restructuring the system of financing the process of social support and creating the vacancy for "Personal assistant";</li> <li>— Pilot a project on rendering support to parents of children (newborns) with disabilities;</li> <li>— Provide for the full access of people with disabilities to services and public facilities;</li> <li>— Revise the system of full-care institutions of social protection of people with disabilities.</li> <li>— Development of home-based social assistance provision, including reforms of the system of financing the government social services.</li> </ul> | On constant bases | MES, MHSPP, CAC, LEBSA                | Within the planned budgets of the relevant bodies, technical support from the development partners, other non-budgetary sources.     |



| <b>2. Education</b> |   |                   |                      |  |   |                      |  |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------|--|---|----------------------|--|
| Article 24          | <p>2.1. Taking measures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Creating conditions for disabled people for equal access to free and quality elementary and secondary education at the place of living;</li> <li>— Not letting disabled people to be excluded from elementary education and disabled children be excluded from free elementary and secondary education;</li> <li>— Facilitating the work of teachers including the ones with disabilities who know the sign language and the Braille Alphabet, training of specialists and teachers at all levels of education;</li> <li>— Ensuring reasonable design and inclusive measures to provide for accessibility of professional education for persons with disabilities along with other citizens;</li> </ul> | On constant basis | MES, CAC, HRO, LEBSA | Within the planned budgets of the relevant bodies, technical support from the development partners, other non-budgetary sources. |   |                      |  |
|                     |   |                   |                      |  | 2.2. To prepare teachers (retrain specialists) to ensure accessibility of education as well as attract new professionals from among persons with disabilities into the field.   | 2020–2021; 2023–2024 | MES, MEDT, MLMEP                                 |
|                     |   |                   |                      |  | 2.3. To raise the awareness of the population including persons with disabilities and their families about the inclusive education and the compulsory nature of getting the education through the work with the communities, mass media and advocacy work through the websites of MES and other Ministries and LEBSA by providing the information about admission to preschool facilities, secondary education facilities as well as secondary and higher professional institutions considering the admission policies. | On constant basis    | CTR, MC, MES, MHSPP, MLMEP, CWFA, LEBSA, UJ, AMM |
|                     |   |                   |                      |  | 2.4. To develop standards for the general education programs on all levels of education considering the principal of accessibility of quality inclusive education for persons with disability.  | 2020–2022            | MES, MLMEP, OSIWSEE                              |
|                     |   |                   |                      |  | 2.5. To provide persons with disability with the educational materials in all educational institutions in accessible formats that consider their individual needs.  | On permanent basis   | MES, MLMEP, MHSPP                                |
|                     |   |                   |                      |  | 2.6. To prepare sign language interpreters for higher institutions and retrain active teachers of preschool and school facilities for deaf and dumb persons.  | On permanent basis   | MES  |
| Article 9           |   |                   |                      |  |   |                      |  |

| <b>3. Accessibility</b> |  |                    |                                 |  |  |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Article 9               | 3.1. Development and approval of the state program "Accessible environment".   | 2020               | CAC, MHSPP, MES, MT, CS         | Within the planned budgets of the relevant bodies, technical support from the development partners, other non-budgetary sources.             |  |
|                         | 3.2. Conduct awareness building for all stakeholders on importance of accessible environment and the problems it has.  | On permanent basis | CTR, MES, MC, MHSPP, CAC, LEBSA |  |  |
|                         | 3.3. To create physical and information accessibility of education for persons with disabilities in all education facilities.  | On permanent basis | KAC, MOH, OSIWSEE, LEGSA        |  |  |
| Article 9(2) (c)        | 3.4. To make the course on "Accessible environment" compulsory in all programs for preparing specialists to the relevant educational institutions.   | 2020-2021          | MES, CAC, OSIWSEE               |  |  |
|                         | 3.5. To conduct yearly checks on following the norms on accessibility of buildings and facilities for persons with disabilities and organize a contest to select the best architect for creating the universal design reflecting accessible environment.   | On constant basis  | CAC, LEBSA, CTR, UA             |  |  |
| Article 9(2)(g)         | 3.6. To take measure to:   | 2019-2021          | CTR, MHSPP, MT, CS, ACA, LEBSA  |  |  |
|                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Ensure the access of people with hearing and vision impairments to television programs (sport, news, cultural, political programs and movies) by using sign language and subtitles;</li> <li>— Develop standards of accessibility of emergency services through the sign language interpreters, websites of the state bodies (functions of font enlargement, accompanying sound etc.);</li> <li>— Ensure protection of rights of persons with disabilities in the court hearings;</li> <li>— Ensure accessibility of infrastructure and public transport services.</li> </ul> |                    |                                 |  |  |
| Articles 4(3) and 9     | 3.7. Include the representatives of State Supervision Services in the healthcare and social protection spheres as well as labor, migration and employment spheres, and involve the representatives of the public organisations of people with disabilities in commissioning the state objects to check their adherence to the universal design.  | 2020               | CAC, MHSPP, MLMEP               | No financing required  |  |
| Article 27 (1) d, k     | 3.8. Create conditions for all categories of persons with disabilities to prepare them to get professional education in the training and employment centers.   | On permanent basis | MLMEP, ASEP, LEBSA              | Within the framework of programs facilitating employment of population, financing from development partners and other non-budgetary sources. |  |

| <b>4. Labor and employment</b>      |   |                    |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Article 27                          | 4.1. To consider financing employment of persons with disabilities and their families in the programs that facilitate employment of population as well as other sectoral programs and plans (provision of soft loans, grants and other labor preferences as well as organization of small and medium businesses). | On constant basis  | MLMEP, CWFA, ASEP, LEBSA            | Within the framework of sectoral programs, financing from development partners, other non-budgetary sources.                     |
|                                     | 4.2. Implementing the principals of personal responsibility among the people with disabilities and members of their families to facilitate self-sufficiency and rational use of employability of persons with disability and the members of their family.   | On constant basis  | MHSPP, LEBSA                        | Non-budgetary sources, assistance of development partners.   |
|                                     | 4.3. Take measures to:<br>— Provide state support for rehabilitation of production capacity of enterprises, public unions of people with disabilities, blind and deaf and dumb people;<br>— Consider developing the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on the State Order to develop social entrepreneurship.      | Up to 2023         | MHSPP, MINT, CS, SCIMSP, LEBSA, OGI |  |
| <b>5. Health and rehabilitation</b> |   |                    |                                     |  |
| Article 25                          | 5.1. Take specific measures to prevent situations leading to disabilities of population, conduct early screening and interventions particularly during the pregnancy and childhood.   | Constantly         | MHSPP, LEBSA                        | Within the framework of sources of the healthcare bodies,  |
| Article 9 and 25                    | 5.2. Provide access to all types of medical services including the ones of reproductive health, maternity houses, provide medicines in accordance with prescriptions of healthcare facilities.  | Constantly         | MHSPP, LEBSA                        | local budgets, development partners assistance and other non-budgetary sources.  |
| Article 25 and 26                   | 5.3. Create rehabilitation (wellness and rehabilitation) centers for people whose health was damaged due to their work activities or unforeseen circumstances (accidents).  | Starting from 2022 | MHSPP, MLMEP, MINT, LEBSA, FIPU     | Within the planned budgets of the relevant bodies, technical support from the development partners, other non-budgetary sources. |
|                                     | 5.4. Optimize the activities of scientific-clinical institutions on preventing deceases particularly professional and children conditions.  | Constantly         | MHSPP, AMS                          |  |
|                                     | 5.5. Construct new additional clinical building for the state "Science and research institute for medical and social examination and rehabilitation of people with disabilities"  | 2021-2024          | MHSPP, SCIMSP, MEDT                 | Development partners' assistance and other non-budgetary sources.  |

|   |   |             |                                  |   |
|---|---|-------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Article 27  | 5.6. Develop new module (system) for identifying the level of disabilities and functional capabilities of people with disabilities.   | 2021        | MLMEP, ASEP, FIPU                | Development partners' assistance and other non-budgetary sources.   |
| <b>6. Participation in political, social and cultural life and sports</b> |   |             |                                  |   |
| Article 29  | 6.1. Create favorable conditions for physical and information accessibility of polling stations and constituencies for people with disabilities during election campaigns.  | In due time | CEC, LEBSA                       | Within the planned budgets of relevant bodies, technical support from development partners and other non-budgetary sources. |
|   | 6.2. Support and prepare persons with disabilities for participation in political life through legal and social awareness raising and relevant campaigns.   | Constantly  | RMI, LEBSA                       | Technical support of development partners and other non-budgetary sources   |
|   | 6.3. Involve persons with disabilities or their legal representatives as observers in the polling stations.   | In due time | CEC, LEGSA                       | No financing required   |
|   | 6.4. Consider development of mechanism to include honorable persons with disabilities in the list of candidates of political parties in the parliament elections of the country with consideration of gender equality.  | In due time | MJ, CEC                          |   |
| Article 30  | 6.5. Create favorable conditions for persons with disabilities to access all cultural, television, theatre and movie facilities as well as museums, libraries and other cultural establishments independent of forms of ownership.  | Constantly  | MC, CTD, CYAS, LEBSA             | Within the planned budgets of relevant bodies, technical support from development partners and other non-budgetary sources. |
|   | 6.6. Take measures to:<br>— Encourage and facilitate full participation of persons with disabilities in sport events as much as possible;<br>— Provide people with disabilities with the opportunities to organize sport and recreational events and facilitate provision of relevant training and resources;<br>— Ensure accessibility of sport, recreation and touristic sites for persons with disabilities;<br>— Ensure equal access of children with disabilities to participation in games, recreation and sport events including the ones at school. | Constantly  | CYAS, LEBSA, PC, VRSF            |   |
|   | 6.7. Facilitate participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life, recreation events and development of sports for people with disabilities.  | 2022        | MHSPP, MC, CYAS, LEBSA, PC, VRSF |   |

| <b>7. Educational work</b>   |   |                   |                       |   |
|--|---|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Article 8  | 7.1. Raising awareness among the population including persons with disabilities, members of their families, parents of children with disabilities, government structures, specialists (teachers, medical personnel, social workers, lawyers etc.), private sector, mass media, civil society about the issues related to disability, including access to education, creating equal working conditions, access to justice, reproductive rights, sports, tourism, cultural life, decreasing risks during natural disasters, emergency situations etc using human rights based approach. | On constant basis | RMI, LEBSA            | Within the planned budgets of relevant bodies, technical support from development partners and other non-budgetary sources. |
| Article 8(2)   | 7.2. Facilitate capacity building and revitalization of persons with disabilities using human rights based approach that includes support in creating new public unions, provision of grants for activities of the unions in priority directions.   | Constantly        | RMI, HRO, LEBSA       | No additional financing required.   |
| <b>8. Monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the National Plan</b> |   |                   |                       |   |
| Article 31   | 8.1. Improvement and reporting of statistical data, centralization of information gathering as well as revision and improving of existing formats of reporting and collection of information related to people with disabilities, distribution and use of collected information during development and implementation of sectoral strategies and programs.  | Constantly        | AS, MHSP, ASEP, LEBSA | No additional financing required.   |
| Article 33   | 8.2. Implementation of activities on raising awareness among population about the CRPD.   | Constantly        | CTR, RMI, LEBSA       | No additional financing required.   |
|  | 8.3. Analysis of implementation of activities of the National Plan by the implementers  | Every half a year | EAP, IWGEAP           | Technical support from development partners and other non-budgetary sources.  |
|  | 8.4. Development and publication of information materials, brochures, bulletins, books, articles on CRDP and other themes related to convention and issues of disability that are accessible for people of all disability categories.   | Constantly        | RMI, LEBSA            | Within the planned budgets of relevant bodies, technical support from development partners and other non-budgetary sources. |

## **NOTICE:**

1. Draft legislative acts are developed by the authorized ministries and institutions and are presented for the review to the interagency working group at the Executive Apparatus of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. After the revision during the meeting of the working group the developed draft has been approved by the ministries and institutions and after that sent for a review to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.
2. Ombudsman of the Republic of Tajikistan, social organizations and other representatives of civil society as well as international organizations are involved in the process further to the agreement.

## **List of abbreviations:**

EAP — Executive Apparatus of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

IWGEAP — Interagency working group at the Executive Apparatus of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

MNMORT — Majlisi Namoyandgon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan

CMB — RMI — Relevant Ministries and Institutions

OGI — other government institutions of the Republic of Tajikistan

OBHEIS — Other bodies that have educational institutions in their structure

CEC—Central Elections Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan

AS — Agency of Statistics at the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

CLD — Committee on local development at the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

CTD — Committee on Tourism Development at the President of the Republic of

MJ — Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan

MES — Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan

MLMEP — Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan

MT — Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Tajikistan

MEDT — Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan

MINT — Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan

MHSPP — Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan

MC—Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan

SCIMSP — State Committee on Investments and Management of State Property of the Republic of Tajikistan

TC — Tax Committee at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

CLT — Committee on Language and Terminology at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

CWFA — Committee on Women and Family Affairs at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

CYAS — Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

CAC—Committee on Architecture and Construction at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

CTR — Committee on Television and Radio at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

ACA— Agency for Civil Aviation at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

ASEP — Agency for Social Insurance and Pensions at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

CS — Communication Services at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

CS — Custom Service at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

HRO — Human Rights Ombudsman

NLC — National Legislation Center at the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

LEBSA — Local Executive Bodies of the State Authority

AS — Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan

AMS — Academy of Medical Science of the Republic of Tajikistan

AMM — Academy of Mass Media of the Republic of Tajikistan

FIPU — Federation of Independent Professional Unions of the Republic of Tajikistan

UJ — Union of Journalists of the Republic of Tajikistan

UA — Union of Architects of the Republic of Tajikistan

PC — Paralympic Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan

VRSF — Various Republican Sport Federations

OSIWSEE — Other State Institutions with Secondary Education Entities



**Government of the Republic of Tajikistan**

**RESOLUTION**

February 27, 2021

№ 52

**On the State program “Accessible Environment”  
for 2021–2025**

In accordance with Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On state forecasts, concepts, strategies and programs of socio-economic development of the Republic of Tajikistan” the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan decides:

To approve the State program “Accessible Environment” for 2021–2025 and the Action Plan on implementation of the State program “Accessible Environment” for 2021–2025 (Annexes 1 and 2).

The Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan together with the relevant ministries and departments, the executive authorities of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, regions, the city of Dushanbe, cities and districts within the budget and from other sources not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the program.

The Committee for Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan shall annually provide information on the progress of the program to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan by December 20.

Chairman  
Government of the  
Republic of Tajikistan

Emomali Rahmon

**Government of the Republic of Tajikistan**

**State program "Accessible Environment"  
for 2021–2025**

**1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The State program "Accessible Environment" for 2021–2025 (hereinafter, the Program) is designed to develop measures of social support for the persons with disabilities, to create equal opportunities for them to participate in public life, and to improve their standard of living.

2. The program determines the goals, objectives, priorities and measures for providing persons with disabilities with easy access to social infrastructure facilities (residential, public and industrial buildings, sports facilities, recreation areas, cultural, educational and other facilities and institutions), as well as the rules for their unimpeded use of rail, air, intercity road transport and all types of urban and suburban passenger transport, means of communication and information.

3. The creation of an accessible environment for persons with disabilities is one of the areas of state policy, the practical results of which must provide persons with disabilities with equal opportunities with other citizens in all spheres of life.

4. The program is aimed at implementing the requirements of regulatory-legal acts and regulatory-technical documents to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities to objects of social infrastructure (residential, public and industrial buildings and facilities, including transportation facilities, recreation areas, and a number of others) and creating conditions for persons with disabilities equal to those for the rest of the population in developing, coordinating and approving project documentation for their construction and reconstruction, as well as regulating the basis of interaction between the participants in the investment process in the field of design, construction, reconstruction and operation of social infrastructure facilities, social adaptation, rehabilitation and integration of persons with disabilities into society.

5. The goal of the program is to create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities. In the medium-term of the program, organizational and financial resources will be concentrated, and an integrated approach to solving the problems of integration and socialization of the persons with disabilities will be ensured. The program will ensure that persons with disabilities have access to social, transportation and engineering infrastructure and services, and improve their standard of living and quality of life.

6. Program objectives:

- Regulatory-legal support for the formation of social, transport and engineering infrastructure accessible to persons with disabilities, the formation of a monitoring system and monitoring the accessibility of social and transport infrastructure for persons with disabilities;
- adaptation of social, transport and engineering infrastructure facilities to enable persons with disabilities to access and receive services without hindrance taking into account their special needs based on the main disability;
- adaptation of Internet resources and communication devices, as well as the provision of information and communication services;
- formation of a tolerant attitude of society to persons with disabilities.

7. The program addresses the following issues in providing an accessible environment for people with disabilities in the Republic of Tajikistan:



- deficiencies and imperfections in legislative and normative regulation at various levels;
- lack of accessible regulatory documentation;
- lack or inefficiency of coordination and interaction between government authorities, self-government bodies of the townships and villages, entrepreneurship and public organizations of the persons with disabilities to create an accessible environment, including in the implementation of programs and individual activities;
- fragmentation of actions;
- low level of awareness and low activity of the population.

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS AND ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF THE PROBLEM

8. The most important condition and means of providing persons with disabilities with the same opportunities as other citizens to participate in the life of society is the formation of an accessible environment for disabled people, including unhindered access of persons with disabilities to social infrastructure facilities, unimpeded use of all types of urban and suburban passenger transport, communication and information.

9. An accessible living environment is a key condition for the integration of persons with disabilities into society. The ability of persons with disabilities to be independent economic entities and to participate in the political, cultural and social life of society, reflects the level of enjoyment of their rights as citizens of a social state, and creates the preconditions for unlocking their potential, which contributes to the social and economic development of the state.

10. As of January 1, 2020 149,709 persons with disabilities were registered in the country including about 28,627 children with disabilities. Of the total number of persons with disabilities in the country there are 33,000 wheelchair users, more than 9,000 persons with hearing and speech disabilities, 8,000 persons with visual impairment.

11. To ensure the formation of an accessible environment for the persons with disabilities in the Republic of Tajikistan the conditions are being created.

12. The legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, including the laws "On Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities," "On Education," "On Social Services," "On Physical Training and Sports," "Library Services", as well as the Town Planning Code and other regulatory-legal acts define the requirements for government authorities, self-government bodies of townships and villages, and other organizations to create conditions for persons with disabilities (including wheelchair users) to have unhindered access to the social infrastructure facilities, as well as unimpeded use of railway, air, intercity road transport and all types of urban and suburban passenger transport, communication and information at the expense of the owners of these facilities.

13. The legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan also establishes that planning and development of cities, other settlements, formation of residential areas and recreation areas, development of design solutions for new construction and reconstruction of buildings, structures and their complexes shall be carried out with adaptation of the specified facilities to allow access to and use by persons with disabilities. In addition, numerous regulatory-technical documents regulate activities related to the implementation of accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities in the Republic of Tajikistan (specifications, state standards, construction standards and regulations, etc., corresponding to the List of regulatory documents in the field of architecture, urban development and construction of the Republic of Tajikistan, valid in the Republic of Tajikistan, published annually by the Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan as of July 1), which include:

- Urban Planning Standards and Rules of the Republic of Tajikistan (GNiP RT 35-01-2012) "Accessibility of Buildings and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities and other people with limited mobility";

— Urban Planning Standards and Rules of the Republic of Tajikistan (GNiP RT 30-01-2018) "Urban Planning. Planning and development of settlements";

— Urban Planning Standards and Rules of the Republic of Tajikistan (GNiP RT 31-01-2018) "Residential apartment buildings";

— Construction standards and rules of the Republic of Tajikistan (SNiP RT 35-02-2019) "Social institutions for children with disabilities";

— Construction standards and rules of the Republic of Tajikistan (SNiP RT 31-02-2007) "Public Buildings and Facilities";

— Guiding documents of the system of normative documents of construction of the Republic of Tajikistan (RDS RT 11-201-2020) "Composition and procedure for developing working designs of construction of buildings and structures. Section 10. "Measures to ensure access for people with low mobility".

14. The legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan establishes the right of persons with disabilities to receive information in an accessible form. The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On library activities" provides for the people with disabilities the right to library services and obtain documents on special media in special and other public libraries.

15. The official websites of ministries and agencies should be adapted for access by persons with disabilities by providing a system of voicing information content.

16. On March 22, 2018, the Republic of Tajikistan signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is an indicator of the country's readiness to create conditions aimed at compliance with international standards of economic, social and other rights of persons with disabilities.

17. According to this Convention, states parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with other citizens, have access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communication, as well as other facilities and services open or provided to the public. These measures, which include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall extend to the following:

— buildings, roads, transportation, and other facilities, including educational institutions, health care facilities, and workplaces;

— information, communication and other services, including electronic and emergency services.

18. A priority direction in the development of education in the Republic of Tajikistan is the creation of a universal barrier-free environment for inclusive education of children with disabilities in pre-school educational and general education institutions. Starting from 2011 the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has been supporting the initiative aimed to develop and improve the inclusive education in the country through the National concept of inclusive education for children with disabilities in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2011-2015.

19. In the Republic of Tajikistan, all forms and methods of education are organized to provide access to children with special needs, including these children are taught at home, in specialized schools and in separate general education institutions.

20. There are currently a number of special educational institutions in the country for children with disabilities, including visually impaired, deaf, mute, hearing-impaired and mentally disabled children, which are engaged in the training and education of such children. There are seven pre-school institutions in the education system of the Republic of Tajikistan for children with disabilities of preschool age, covering 730 children. There are 64 boarding schools in the country, of which

18 mixed-type social boarding schools, 11 schools for children with special needs and 5 sanatorium-type schools for children with tuberculosis. A total of 8,971 children (543 girls), including 1,895 children with disabilities, are being attended and cared for in these institutions. Children with disabilities are mainly educated in specialized institutions (for children with impaired hearing, vision, speech, intelligence, musculoskeletal system, with mental retardation).

21. Within the system of the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan there is a state institution "Special Professional Lyceum for People with Disabilities" with its branches, where people with disabilities receive primary vocational education in various specialties.

22. The relevant ministries and agencies, in cooperation with international and public organizations, implement a number of projects aimed at the development of inclusive education. At present four day care centers for children with disabilities operate in the country in Hissor, Khorug, Kulob cities and Vose district.

23. In order to ensure the conditions for the implementation of basic educational and social rights, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan together with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan gradually introduces into practice the subordinate social institutions and develops new forms of social services through day care centers for children with disabilities. At present, psychological, medical and pedagogical consultation services are provided throughout the country in the cities of Dushanbe, Khujand and Isfara of Sughd Region and in the city of Bokhtar of Khatlon Region. The psychological, medical and educational consultation services include a wide range of specialists, including social workers and teachers specializing in various disorders of child development.

24. Despite the fact that in the Republic of Tajikistan measures to create an accessible environment for children with disabilities are regulated by the country's legislation, however their practical implementation is not sufficient.

25. A significant part of the previously commissioned residential buildings, clinics, hospitals, other social facilities, transport facilities of the street and road network does not take into account their accessibility for persons with disabilities. To date, in settlements of the Republic of Tajikistan conditions for unimpeded access of persons with disabilities to the social infrastructure facilities, public and industrial buildings and facilities are not fully created. Persons with disabilities in the country use wheelchairs, crutches, other special equipment or other assistance and do not have access to all these facilities due to various diseases of the musculoskeletal system or lower limb injuries.

26. The interests of persons with hearing and visual impairment should be taken into account, because they also experience difficulties in using the above-mentioned facilities. Official websites of ministries and agencies, local executive authorities and self-government bodies of townships and villages are not adapted for persons with disabilities. Traffic lights are not supplemented with audible signals for the blind persons. Public libraries of the country are not provided with conditions for persons with disabilities, including the visually impaired in obtaining documents on special media (Braille), there are no special libraries for persons with disabilities. Information services for subtitling TV programs are not sufficiently available. The subtitling is carried out both through the appropriate titling and the roll titles. All these barriers prevent people with disabilities from accessing information.

27. Currently, the sports facilities for adaptive physical education and sports among athletes with disabilities are not provided sufficiently.

28. Public transport in the cities, services of which are the most important prerequisite for social integration, is partially adapted to the abilities of people with disabilities. The crossing part of the streets in most cases does not allow the movement of persons with disabilities in wheelchairs, creates additional difficulties for the passage of wheelchairs. Traffic lights do not have signal devices for persons with disabilities.

29. It is necessary to expand the participation of public organizations and parents in the creation of an adaptive environment for persons with disabilities. Opportunities for self-realization and socialization of persons with disabilities, children with disabilities and children with special needs through the implementation of socially significant activities and various types of social and creative activities are not sufficiently provided. There is a lack of public awareness about the

rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities in the public environment and educational space and the necessary tolerant attitude towards them is not formed.

30. An emotional barrier hinders the social integration of persons with disabilities, which makes social contacts between persons with disabilities and their environment difficult.

31. Due to the fact that the buildings and facilities, pedestrian routes and public transport stop platforms, communication and information for the use of persons with disabilities are not adapted, it becomes difficult or impossible for them to receive many medical, social, educational, household, recreational and other services and to participate fully in the life of society.

32. Due to the lack of a comprehensive approach to addressing the most important social issues — creation of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in all spheres of society by ensuring the accessibility of the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, a number of problems have arisen, including:

- Inefficiencies of legislative and regulatory environment of accessibility for persons with disabilities issues — incomplete and insufficient harmonization of regulatory- legal acts of the Republic of Tajikistan with the norms of international law, as well as recommendatory nature of norms, rules and standards, defining the conditions of formation of an accessible environment for persons with disabilities;

- a formal approach in the design and construction to addressing issues of accessibility, as a result of which the requirements of existing regulatory-legal and regulatory-technical documents on accessibility are not fully implemented;

- the elements of accessibility implemented by construction do not allow persons with disabilities to use them functionally, fully and effectively;

- lack or ineffectiveness of coordination and interaction between public authorities, local authorities, businesses and public associations of persons with disabilities to create an accessible environment, including in the implementation of targeted programs and individual activities;

- shortcomings in the examination of projects, the lack of an independent expertise and control system in the field of design, construction and reconstruction of facilities from the perspective of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

33. The unresolved problem of access to the environment for persons with disabilities leads to a number of serious socio-economic consequences:

- dissimulation of labor and social activity of persons with disabilities, negatively affecting employment, educational and cultural levels of persons with disabilities, the level and quality of their lives;

- forced self-isolation of persons with disabilities, which complicates the implementation of measures for medical, social and psychological rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, predetermines the increased demand for medical and social services for persons with disabilities in inpatient and home care;

- negative attitude towards persons with disabilities in the mass consciousness, which predetermines the need for appropriate awareness-raising, education and information campaigns;

- discomfort and physical dysfunction of persons with disabilities.

34. In order to ensure stock taking of social infrastructure facilities and the state of their accessibility for people with disabilities, it is necessary to carry out certification of facilities in priority areas of life activities. Passportization (certification) could clarify the degree of adaptation necessary to improve accessibility, as a basis for the development of a long-term program and for the gradual achievement of improvement in the area of accessibility.

35. The building should be adapted for all categories of population — pregnant women, mothers with strollers, the elderly with any functional impairment, for customers with hand luggage, etc.

36. Design and organizational measures should be aimed not at the accessibility of the building by persons with disabilities as an end in itself, but at the unimpeded access to the required service. If the formal accessibility of the building is achieved by planning and engineering means,

then the access to the service also depends on organizational measures. Therefore, ensuring the accessibility of the environment for persons with disabilities is one of the most important socio-economic problems.

37. By the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan № 834 of December 31, 2014 the National Coordinating Council on health and social protection of persons with disabilities was created, its main objective is to promote the process of implementation of state policy in the area of social protection of persons with disabilities.

38. High requirements to ensure accessibility of buildings, consistent with modern social protection objectives and the consequent need to address the problems of accessibility of buildings, facilities and housing for persons with disabilities necessitates the need to adopt and implement a set of effective organizational and technical, legal and regulatory measures.

39. Taking into account the existing problems it became necessary to develop and implement the present Program, which provides a set of measures interrelated with specific objectives, resources, terms of implementation and implementors, and ensures a systematic approach to solving problems of persons with disabilities by the program-targeted method as the most expedient in addressing problems of comprehensive rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, as well as the need to attract several sources of funding.

40. An effective mechanism for the implementation of a comprehensive approach to addressing problems of accessibility of facilities and services for persons with disabilities is the interagency cooperation of all parties concerned, including public authorities, institutions and the community. The National Coordinating Council on Health and Social Protection of Population under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and councils on health and social protection of population, established under the local executive bodies in accordance with the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan № 834 of December 31, 2014 "On creation of the National Coordinating Council on Health and Social Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan" will build synergies between state authorities, state institutions and organizations, and public associations of persons with disabilities.

### 3. MAIN PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

41. To achieve the objectives of the program, it is planned to implement a set of interrelated and coordinated activities to create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities.

42. The fundamental direction of the program is the creation of regulatory, legal support for the formation of an accessible environment for persons with disabilities of social, transport and engineering infrastructure; the formation of a system of monitoring and control over the provision of accessibility for persons with disabilities of social and transport infrastructure. The activities of this direction consist of the following:

- improvement of the national legislation in terms of ensuring conditions for the formation of accessibility for people with disabilities of social, transport and engineering infrastructure, definition of the function of control over the implementation of these tasks;

- developing a passport form for existing social infrastructure facilities, residential houses and courtyard areas in terms of accessibility for persons with disabilities;

- certification of facilities and services in priority areas of life activities for persons with disabilities with the involvement of representatives of public organizations of persons with disabilities;

- organization of training of working groups for certification of existing facilities of social, transport and engineering infrastructure;

- development and publication of methodological recommendations regulating the creation of an accessible environment for persons with disabilities having musculoskeletal, visual and hearing impairments;

— creation of social, transport and engineering infrastructure, accessible to persons with disabilities having musculoskeletal, visual and hearing impairments (with placement of methodological materials on the Internet site).

43. In order to provide methodological assistance to local state authorities, institutions and organizations of various forms of ownership, the following activities are envisaged:

— development of methodological recommendations on the creation of targeted programs for the formation of an accessible environment for persons with disabilities;

— development and approval of sectoral forms of statistical reporting in the context of local state authorities to ensure an accessible environment for persons with disabilities;

— organization and implementation of monitoring of funds allocated for the creation of conditions for persons with disabilities for unhindered access to facilities of social, transport and engineering infrastructure, as well as the number of these facilities with unhindered access for persons with disabilities;

— development and implementation of the software to create an information data bank and accessibility map of social and transport infrastructure facilities, as well as the system of control over the provision of accessibility for persons with disabilities of social, transport and engineering infrastructure, which will be formed on the basis of the passportization (certification) of priority facilities for persons with disabilities.

44. Along with the methodological assistance, there will be ensured the monitoring of compliance with the requirements of accessibility for persons with disabilities on existing and newly commissioned social infrastructure facilities, and based on the results of inspections — the information to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan will be provided annually in the form of a report.

45. Implementation of practical measures to create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities in the framework of the program will be carried out in the priority areas of social, transport and engineering infrastructure.

46. An integrated approach in the formation of an accessible environment is planned to provide by taking into account the individual needs of persons with disabilities having musculoskeletal, visual and hearing impairments.

47. Practical measures to create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities in priority areas of social, transport and engineering infrastructure will include the following activities:

1) Adaptation of buildings of territorial bodies of social protection, social service institutions, employment agencies, educational, health care, cultural institutions for unhindered access of persons with disabilities taking into account their special needs and receiving services, as well as the surrounding area, including:

— creation and equipment of specially designated parking spaces and facilities with additional space in front or on the side of the building, suitable for movement in the waiting areas and places of reception of citizens;

— equipping buildings with ramps and other special devices and fixtures, information boards, the "helper" call button, installation of equipment to increase the audibility for people with hearing impairments;

— providing persons with disabilities with the information about the services offered in a form adapted for people with disabilities taking into account their special needs;

— providing persons with hearing disabilities with sign language interpreters of appropriate qualification;

2) providing accessibility for persons with disabilities of sports facilities required for physical training and sports for persons with disabilities having the musculoskeletal system, vision and hearing impairment;

3) training (retraining) of instructors and trainers working with persons with disabilities;

4) providing accessibility of the passenger transport fleet for people with disabilities, taking into account their special needs, including:

- modernization of public transportation with special equipment, equipping them with LED displays for visually impaired persons and a special sound buzzer for persons with hearing impairment;

- procurement of vehicles with special equipment and design features that ensure their accessibility for persons with disabilities;

5) equipping pedestrian and transport communications, crossings, public passenger transport stops with systems of simultaneous voice and text information output (including transport route maps), ramps, tactile and contrasting surfaces, etc;

6) installation of information boards with voice notification on demand (call button) on the estimated time of arrival of buses at bus stops;

7) height lowering of the curbstone for easy exit/exit at crosswalks;

8) installation of audible traffic lights;

9) equipment of railway stations, bus stations, airports and adjacent areas;

10) arranging subtitling television programs in mandatory public channels;

11) ensuring accessibility of general education and vocational training institutions for persons with disabilities, taking into account their special needs;

12) training of employees of social institutions in sign language interpreting.

48. Measures for the creation and broadcasting of social advertisements, the production and broadcasting of thematic radio and television programs, and the organization of educational work in educational institutions focusing on developing a tolerant attitude towards persons with disabilities, respecting their specificities, for organizing and conducting awareness-raising campaigns to disseminate ideas, principles and means of creating an accessible environment for persons with disabilities are aimed at overcoming barrier relations.

#### 4. PROGRAM FUNDING

49. The program is funded from the following sources:

1) state budget;

2) other sources including:

- extrabudgetary funding;

- charitable funding;

- technical assistance from international organizations.

#### 5. PROGRAM MONITORING, EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

50. The Program monitoring and evaluation system includes planning and forecasting, implementation of program activities, and control over the Program's progress.

51. The implementation of this Program will contribute to:

- Improving the level and quality of life of persons with disabilities;

- overcoming the isolation and reducing the social dependence of persons with disabilities;

- stimulation of social and labor activity of the persons with disabilities;

- access for people with disabilities to facilities and services in priority areas of life activities;

- increasing the number of people with disabilities (families with persons with disabilities and children with disabilities) provided with adapted housing;

- increasing the accessibility and quality of rehabilitation services for people with disabilities;

- creation of a system of adequate information and methodological support, advanced training and certification of specialists engaged in the system of rehabilitation and social integration of persons with disabilities;

- overcoming marginalization and barrier relations in the society.

**Government of the Republic of Tajikistan**

**ACTION PLAN**

**on implementation of the State program "Accessible Environment" for 2021–2025**

| №  | Goal and objectives  | Activity   | Indicators   | Implementation timeframe | Responsible bodies | Funding (in thousand of TJS) | Funding sources        |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5                        | 6                  | 7                            | 8                      |
| <b>1. REGULATORY-LEGAL SUPPORT FOR THE FORMATION OF SOCIAL, TRANSPORT AND ENGINEERING INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE FORMATION OF A MONITORING SYSTEM AND MONITORING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF SOCIAL AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</b> |  |  |  |                          |                    |                              |                        |
| 1.   | Improvement of the regulatory and legal framework of state policy in the field of social protection of persons with disabilities | Improvement of the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan in terms of ensuring conditions for the formation of accessible social, transport and engineering infrastructure for persons with disabilities  | Adoption of regulatory-legal acts that provide the basis for providing an accessible environment | 2021–2025                | CAC, MHSPP, MT     | 30,00                        | Extrabudgetary funding |
| 2.   | Accounting for socially constructed facilities and clarifying their accessibility to persons with disabilities                   | Development and approval of the passportization (certification) procedure and form of the passport of existing facilities of social, transport and engineering infrastructure, residential buildings and courtyard areas in terms of accessibility for persons with disabilities<br>Organization of training for working groups of local public authorities to carry out certification of existing social, transport and engineering infrastructure facilities<br>Passportization of facilities and services in priority areas of life activities for persons with disabilities with the involvement of representatives of public organizations of persons with disabilities | Providing statistical data on the accessible environment   | 2021                     | CAC                | 40,00                        | State budget funds     |
|  |  |  |  | 2021                     | CAC, MHSPP         | 65,00                        | State budget funds     |
|  |  |  |  | 2021–2025                | LA, CSOPWD         | 65,00                        | State budget funds     |



|    |  |  |   |  |           |  |        |                        |
|----|--|--|---|--|-----------|--|--------|------------------------|
|    |  | Development of a software to create an information data bank and a map of accessibility of social and transport infrastructure   |   |  | 2021      | CAC, CS                                      | 100,00 | Extrabudgetary funding |
| 3. | Providing access for persons with disabilities to existing and newly commissioned social infrastructure facilities | Maintaining and keeping up to date an information data bank and accessibility map of facilities and services   | Accessibility of information on the accessible environment                                    |  | 2021-2025 | CAC, MHSPP, CS, MT, MC, MLMEP, MES, CYSA, LA | 100,00 | Extrabudgetary funding |
| 4. | Creating a regulatory and technical framework for an accessible environment  | Development and publication of methodological recommendations regulating the creation of an accessible environment for persons with disabilities   | Development and publication of methodological recommendations on an accessible environment    |  | 2021-2022 | MHSPP, MT, CAC                               | 10,00  | State budget funds     |
|    |  | Development of methodological recommendations on the formation of targeted programs of local public authorities to create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities  | recomendations on an accessible environment   |  | 2021      | MHSPP, CAC, MT                               | 50,00  | State budget funds     |
| 5. | Providing regulatory information on the accessible environment, through official websites                          | Placement on the website of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of the regulatory-legal framework for creating an accessible environment for persons with disabilities, versions of replication projects taking into account the creation of an accessible environment for persons with disabilities to use by concerned organizations and institutions in the construction and adaptation of facilities | List of official websites with regulatory information on accessible environment               |  | 2021-2025 | MHSPP, CAC                                   | 50,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |
| 6. | Organization of recording of the state of accessibility of facilities  | Development and approval of statistical observation forms to ensure an accessible environment for persons with disabilities  | Statistical report forms on providing an accessible environment for persons with disabilities |  | 2021      | CAC, SA                                      | 40,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |

|  |   |   |   |           |                                    |         |                        |
|--|---|---|---|-----------|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| 7.   | Ensuring compliance with the requirements of the legislation on an accessible environment | Monitoring compliance with the requirements of accessibility for persons with disabilities in existing and newly commissioned facilities of social infrastructure   | Result of monitoring compliance with accessibility requirements                                   | 2021-2025 | DSNEUP-<br>PD CAC,<br>SACSS<br>CAC | —       | Budgeted funds         |
| <b>2. ADAPTATION OF PRIORITY SOCIAL, TRANSPORT AND ENGINEERING INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES TO ENABLE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO ACCESS AND RECEIVE SERVICES WITHOUT HINDRANCE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS BASED ON THE MAIN DISABILITY</b> |   |   |   |           |                                    |         |                        |
| <b>§ 1. Adaptation of residential facilities and living environment</b>  |   |   |   |           |                                    |         |                        |
| 8.   | Adaptation of the existing housing for persons with disabilities                          | <p>1) Adaptation of residential facilities and courtyard areas to the needs of persons with disabilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Equipping the entrance area of the premises, porch, vestibule, entrance hall and paths of movement (elevator, stairs);</li> <li>— equipping paths of movement with special devices (ramps, supporting handrails, folding ramps, stair lifts, places for fixing wheelchairs, light and sound systems inside buildings, tactile strips in front of stairs, contrasting color of the outer steps, doorways with an audible beacon)</li> </ul> <p>2) Adaptation of residential buildings to the needs of visually impaired, where they live compactly (in agreement with non-governmental organizations of persons with disabilities)</p> | Number of existing residential buildings adapted for persons with disabilities                    | 2021-2025 | LA                                 | 1300,00 | Extrabudgetary funding |
| 9.   | Adapting parks, sidewalks and crosswalks for persons with disabilities                    | Parks, sidewalks and crosswalks for wheelchair users and people with visual and hearing impairments (reconstruction of overpasses, underpasses, height-lowering of the curbstones at surface pedestrian crossings)  | Number of parks, sidewalks and crosswalks adapted for accessibility for persons with disabilities | 2021-2025 | CAC,<br>LA                         | 650,00  | State budget funds     |
|  |   |   |   | 2021-2025 | LA                                 | 650,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |

|  |   |   |  |           |                                  |         |                        |
|--|---|---|--|-----------|----------------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| 10.  | Creating conditions of access for persons with disabilities   | Creation of specially designated parking spaces for people with disabilities in residential areas   | Number of specially designated parking spaces in residential areas                                 | 2021-2025 | LA                               | 325,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |
| <b>§ 2. Adaptation of intracity ground passenger transport</b> |   |   |  |           |                                  |         |                        |
| 11.  | Creating conditions for access to transportation services for persons with disabilities                   | Ensuring the accessibility of passenger transport fleet for persons with disabilities, taking into account their special needs based on their disabilities, including the modernization of the surface urban passenger transport fleet, public transport vehicles with special equipment<br>Equipping the fleet with LED displays for hearing-impaired persons and a special sound buzzer for visually impaired persons | Specifics of accessibility to transport infrastructure   | 2021-2025 | LA                               | 1300,00 | State budget funds     |
| 12.  | Increasing the number of vehicles accessible to people with disabilities                                  | Procurement of vehicles with special equipment and design features that ensure their accessibility for persons with disabilities  | Provision of vehicles for access for persons with disabilities                                     | 2021-2025 | LA                               | -       | Budgeted funds         |
| 13.  | Accessibility of passenger transport stops with systems of simultaneous voice and text information output | Equipping public passenger transport stops with systems of simultaneous voice and text information output (including transport route maps), tactile and contrasting surfaces, etc.<br>2) Installation of information boards at bus stops with audio announcement on demand (call button) of the estimated time of arrival of buses and trolley buses  | Providing passenger transport stops with systems of simultaneous voice and text information output | 2021-2025 | LA                               | 325,00  | State budget funds     |
| 14.  | Accessibility of road infrastructure for persons with disabilities  | 1) Height-lowering of the curbstones for easy exit/exit at crosswalks<br>Installation of audible traffic lights   | The degree of pedestrian accessibility of road infrastructure                                      | 2021-2025 | LA, MT                           | 650,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |
|  |   |   |  | 2021-2025 | LA, with participation of CSOPWD | 650,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |

|   |  |   |           |             |         |                        |
|---|--|---|-----------|-------------|---------|------------------------|
|   | 3) Equipping with anti-slip coatings of the ways of approach to the road infrastructure                                  |   | 2021-2025 | MT, LA      | 650,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |
|   | 4) Installation of noise vibration strips on road sections in the vicinity of institutions for persons with disabilities |   | 2021-2025 | MT, LA      | 650,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |
| <b>§ 3. Adaptation of crosswalks</b>                    |  |   |           |             |         |                        |
| 15.   | Adaptation of crosswalks for unhindered access for persons with disabilities   | Reconstruction and equipment of underground, surface and overground crosswalks for unhindered access of persons with disabilities with ramps, tactile and contrasting surfaces, signs, etc.   | 2021-2025 | CAC, MT, LA | 650,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |
| <b>§ 4. Adaptation of intercity passenger transport</b> |  |   |           |             |         |                        |
| 16.   | Adaptation of intercity passenger transport for persons with disabilities  | Ensuring accessibility of bus stations, railway stations, airports and surrounding areas for persons with disabilities, including:<br>— installation of specialized payphones for persons with impaired mobility, signs with light and sound information for persons with hearing and vision impairments;<br>— equipping specialized cash registers, waiting rooms and public toilets;<br>— placing timetables for transport adapted for persons with disabilities;<br>— equipping buildings with ramps and other special devices and fixtures;<br>— equipping buildings with information signs, a "helper" call button;<br>— installation of equipment to increase audibility for people with hearing impairment;<br>— creation of specially designated parking spaces | 2021-2025 | LA, CAA     | 1625,00 | Extrabudgetary funding |

| <b>§ 5. Adaptation of buildings of public authorities in the area of physical education and sports, social protection, health care, culture, employment and education</b>   |  |   |  |             |                             |
|---|--|---|--|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 17.   | Adaptation of buildings of public authorities in the area of physical education and sports, social protection, health care, culture, employment and education for persons with disabilities  | Adaptation of buildings of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Committee on Youth and Sport Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, other state bodies, as well as the surrounding area for unhindered access of persons with disabilities taking into account their special needs | Degree of provision of public buildings in the area of physical education and sports, social protection, health care, culture, employment and education for the needs of persons with disabilities | 2021 – 2025 | MHSPP, MLMEP, MC, MES, CYSA |
|   |  |   |  | 400,00      | State budget funds          |
| <b>§ 6. Adaptation of sports facilities in demand for adaptive physical education and sports for persons with disabilities having musculoskeletal system, vision and hearing impairments, and the provision of services in the field of physical education and sports</b> |  |   |  |             |                             |
| 18.   | Adaptation of sports facilities in demand for adaptive physical education and sports for persons with disabilities having musculoskeletal system, vision and hearing impairments and the provision of services in the field of physical education and sports for persons with disabilities | Adaptation of sports facilities in demand for adaptive physical education and sports for persons with disabilities having musculoskeletal system, vision and hearing impairments for unhindered access of persons with disabilities, as well as surrounding area, parking place   | Degree of availability of sports facilities to meet the requirements of people with disabilities   | 2021 – 2025 | CAC, CYSA                   |
|   |  |   |  | 650,00      | State budget funds          |

|  |  |  |           |                                   |        |                        |
|--|--|--|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| 19. Staffing of the industry to work with people with disabilities   | 1) Training of specialists in the educational program "Adaptive Physical Education and Sports"<br>2) Advanced training and professional retraining of instructors and trainers working with persons with disabilities  | Degree of staffing in the industry   | 2021-2025 | CYSA with participation of CSOPWD | 65,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |
|  |  |  | 2021-2025 | MES                               | 65,00  | Extrabudgetary funding |
| <b>§ 7. Adaptation of social protection and employment facilities and provision of social protection, health care, culture and employment services</b>                     |  |  |           |                                   |        |                        |
| 20. Adaptation of social protection and employment facilities and providing social protection, health care, cultural and employment services for persons with disabilities | <p>Adaptation of buildings of social protection, health care, culture and employment institutions, other buildings of state bodies, and their surrounding areas for unhindered access for persons with disabilities, taking into account their special needs and receiving services, as well as the surrounding area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— creation of specially designated parking spaces;</li> <li>— equipping buildings with ramps and other special devices and fixtures;</li> <li>— equipping buildings with information signs, a "helper" call button;</li> <li>— installation of equipment to increase audibility for people with hearing impairment;</li> <li>— placement of background information on the services provided in a form accessible and adapted for persons with disabilities, taking into account their special needs;</li> <li>— provision of services to persons with disabilities, taking into account their special needs;</li> <li>— ensuring the availability of a sign language interpreter with appropriate qualifications;</li> <li>— providing health care facilities with equipment for medical manipulations adapted to the special needs of persons with disabilities (for the facilities of medical institutions);</li> <li>— provision of medical care (medical services) by a medical worker to persons with disabilities, taking into account their special needs (for facilities of medical institutions)</li> </ul> | Degree of provision of social protection and employment facilities and services in the field of social protection, health care, culture and employment for persons with disabilities | 2021-2025 | CAC, MHSP, MLMEP, MC, LA          | 975,00 | State budget funds     |

|  |  |   |   |           |               |        |                        |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|-----------|---------------|--------|------------------------|--|--|
|  |  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— creation of special corners in libraries for persons with disabilities (including visually impaired);</li> <li>— equipping public toilets with a separate cabin for persons with disabilities</li> </ul> |           |               |        |                        |  |  |
| 21.  | Promoting vocational training and qualifications for persons with disabilities   | Creation of the educational and material base for training persons with disabilities in working professions   | Providing persons with disabilities with full-time employment and work  | 2021-2025 | MLMEP         | 120,00 | State budget funds     |  |  |
| 22.  | Staffing the industry to work with persons with disabilities   | Sign language interpreting training for employees of social protection, health care, culture and employment institutions  | Degree of service for persons with disabilities   | 2021-2025 | MES, MHSP, MC | 80,00  | State budget funds     |  |  |
| <b>§ 8. Adaptation of buildings (premises) of educational institutions and the provision of educational services</b> |  |   |   |           |               |        |                        |  |  |
| 23.  | Adaptation of buildings (premises) of educational institutions and provision of educational services for persons with disabilities | <p>Adaptation of buildings of general education institutions and priority institutions of primary (secondary) vocational education of priority institutions of primary (secondary) vocational education for unhindered access of children with disabilities, taking into account their special needs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— equipping buildings with ramps and other special devices and fixtures;</li> <li>— equipping buildings with information signs, a "helper" call button;</li> <li>— installation of equipment to increase audibility for people with hearing impairment;</li> <li>— equipping educational institutions with special equipment, including computer equipment;</li> <li>— providing access to computer technologies suitable for persons with disabilities;</li> <li>— training of persons with disabilities taking into account their disability</li> </ul> | Degree of compliance of buildings (premises) of educational institutions and provision of educational services for persons with disabilities  | 2021-2025 | CAC, MES      | 975,00 | Extrabudgetary funding |  |  |

|  |   |  |   |           |                             |        |                        |
|--|---|--|---|-----------|-----------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| 24.  | Unimpeded access for persons with disabilities to buildings of higher education institutions  | Adaptation of buildings of higher education institutions for unimpeded access for persons with disabilities of all categories, taking into account their special needs and services  | Degree of compliance of buildings of higher education institutions for persons with disabilities  | 2021-2025 | CAC, MES, MHSPP             | 975,00 | Extrabudgetary funding |
| <b>3. ADAPTATION OF INTERNET RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES, AS WELL AS THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES</b> |   |  |   |           |                             |        |                        |
| 25.  | Accessibility of Internet resources and communication devices, as well as the provision of information and communication services for persons with disabilities | <p>1) Adapting the official websites of state authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan on the Internet, taking into account the special needs of visually impaired</p> <p>2) Organization of subtitling of television programs of mandatory public channels</p> <p>3) Opening of the information banner "Accessible Environment" on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan</p> <p>4) Organizing the provision of appropriately qualified sign language interpreters for major public events and meetings</p> <p>5) Provision of adequate hearing aids for persons with hearing impairment at public events and meetings held in cultural institutions</p> <p>6) Organizing the production of periodicals for persons with disabilities, including visually impaired, alternative formats of printing materials (large font or audio files)</p> | Degree of accessibility of Internet resources and communication devices, as well as the provision of services in the field of information and communication for persons with disabilities | 2021-2025 | CS, Ministries and agencies | —      | Budgeted funds         |
|  |   |  |   | 2021-2025 | CTR                         | —      | Budgeted funds         |
|  |   |  |   | 2021-2025 | MHSPP, CAC                  | —      | Budgeted funds         |
|  |   |  |   | 2021-2025 | MHSPP                       | —      | Budgeted funds         |
|  |   |  |   | 2021-2025 | MHSPP, MC                   | —      | Budgeted funds         |
|  |   |  |   | 2021-2025 | MES, CSOPWD                 | 160,00 | Extrabudgetary funding |



|  |  |  |   |           |                                    |                   |                        |
|--|--|--|---|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
|  |  | 7) To use book sources, on the websites of relevant agencies of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, allocation and placement of book sources in electronic format specifically for visually impaired              |   | 2021-2025 | MES                                | —                 | Budgeted funds         |
| <b>4. FORMATION OF A TOLERANT ATTITUDE OF SOCIETY TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</b> |  |  |   |           |                                    |                   |                        |
| 26.  | Promoting tolerant attitude of society towards persons with disabilities | 1) Creation and broadcasting of social advertising aimed at formation of tolerant attitude towards persons with disabilities   | Relative assessment of public tolerance for persons with disabilities | 2021-2025 | CTR                                | —                 | Budgeted funds         |
|  |  | 2) Preparation of methodological recommendations on the organization of educational work in educational institutions of the country, aimed at forming tolerant attitude towards persons with disabilities, respecting their specifics              |   | 2021-2025 | MES                                | 30,00             | State budget funds     |
|  |  | 3) Involving religious associations in the process of forming tolerant attitude towards persons with disabilities in the country   |   | 2021-2025 | CRRTC, CSOPWD                      | —                 | Budgeted funds         |
|  |  | 4) Conducting sociological research to assess the level of accessibility of priority facilities and services for persons with disabilities as well as to study their attitude towards the activities carried out to form an accessible environment |   | 2021-2025 | MHSPP, CAC, CSOPWD, other partners | 60,00             | Extrabudgetary funding |
| <b>Total:</b>  |  |  |   |           |                                    | <b>15,342,500</b> |                        |
| <b>Including:</b>  |  |  |   |           |                                    |                   |                        |
| <b>State budget funds</b>  |  |  |   |           |                                    | <b>5,572,500</b>  |                        |
| <b>Extrabudgetary funding</b>  |  |  |   |           |                                    | <b>9,770,000</b>  |                        |

## ABBREVIATIONS

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| RT           | Republic of Tajikistan  |
| MHSPP        | Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan  |
| MES          | Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan   |
| MT           | Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Tajikistan   |
| MC           | Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan   |
| MLMEP        | Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan   |
| CRRTCR       | Committee on Religion, Regulation of Traditions, Celebrations and Rites under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan  |
| CYSA         | Committee on Youth and Sport Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan   |
| CAC          | Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan   |
| CTR          | Committee on TV and Radio broadcasting under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan   |
| SA           | Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan   |
| CAA          | Civil Aviation Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan  |
| CS           | Communications Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan   |
| SACSS CAC    | State Architectural and Construction Supervision Service of the Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan                               |
| DSNEUPPD CAC | Department of State non-departmental Expertise of Urban Planning Project Documentation of the Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan |
| LA           | Local authorities   |
| CSOPWD       | Civil society organizations for persons with disabilities   |
| NGO          | Non-governmental organizations  |

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