

Government Action on Disability Policy

A Global Survey

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(Communautaire Française)
(Region Wallonne)
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Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Holy See
Iceland
Japan
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
San Marino
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

The Middle East And North Africa

Bahrain
Cyprus
Egypt
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Jordan
Lebanon
Malta
Morocco
Oman
Qatar
Turkey
Yemen, Republic of

Countries In Transition

Croatia
Czech Republic
Estonia
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Georgia
Hungary
Lithuania
Moldova, Republic of
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovenia
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uzbekistan

Latin America And The Caribbean

Barbados
Bolivia
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Honduras
Mexico
Peru
Saint Christopher and Nevis
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia

Sub-Saharan Africa

Congo
Eritrea
Ghana
Guinea
Madagascar
Malawi

Namibia
Nigeria
South Africa
Tanzania, Republic of
Zambia

South, East Asia And The Pacific

Cambodia
China
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Maldives
Pakistan
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Part I

Government Replies Question by Question

Summary

In 1993 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (48/96 of 20 December 1993).

The main purpose of the Standard Rules is to facilitate for Member States to adopt policies, programmes and measures in order to achieve Full Participation and Equality for Persons with disabilities. One important feature of the Standard Rules is that the United Nations should actively monitor the implementation.

In 1994 the United Nations Commission for Social Development initiated a three-year monitoring exercise to promote the implementation of the Standard Rules and to monitor the progress in the development of national policies and programmes built on these Rules.

This study has been made as part of this UN monitoring project. In co-operation with a Panel of Experts, set up as a consultative body by six major international organizations in the disability field, the Special Rapporteur, responsible for this monitoring project, selected a number of substance areas for further study. It was also decided that a set of questions should be sent both to Governments of Member States and to all national affiliates of the six international organizations, constituting the Panel of Experts. A consultant, Dr. Dimitris Michailakis, was employed for two years to conduct the study.

The consultant prepared a questionnaire in consultation with the Special Rapporteur, the Panel of Experts and representatives of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

The questionnaire was circulated in December 1995. When the analysis of the results was started in August 1996, 83 replies from Governments and 163 replies from national NGOs had been received. In this way information was received from totally 130 countries.

This book mainly contains a presentation of Government replies. In part I the material is presented question by question together with some observations by the author. Part II contains country profiles, built on Government replies. The presentation is made on the basis of regions, to facilitate comparison between countries.

Part III contains summaries of NGO replies. A further analysis of NGO replies together with some comparative observations between Government and NGO replies from the same country will later on be presented in separate reports.

Bengt Lindqvist
UN Special Rapporteur on Disability

Introduction

Differences in definitions, both within countries and among countries make it very difficult to estimate the number of persons with disabilities. However, according to WHO estimates, the figure of disabled people in the world is 500 million, 140 million of them being children. Among 300 million people are living in developing countries thus having rarely access to assistance, rehabilitation and appropriate services. Wars all over the world leave - amongst all the destruction - a lot of people disabled; on top of it the poverty also increases disability as a social and individual irreversible fact. In the Western world the high figures of unemployment together with great changes in the social welfare system do not facilitate - to say the least - the reduction of the impact of disability of the individual life.

With the adoption of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities the international community took a decisive step towards the recognition

of the human rights of persons with disabilities. The recognition of their rights started in 1975, when the UN acknowledged the need to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (General Assembly resolution 3447 of 9 December 1975). In 1982 The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982. This resolution recognized the rights of persons with disabilities to equal opportunities, full participation in economic and social life and equal access to health, education and rehabilitation services. In 1982, the UN proclaimed 1983-1992 as the UN Decade of Disabled Persons. In the late eighties a proposed adoption of a draft Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against disabled persons was rejected by the General Assembly. The Decade resulted in an instrument of a different kind, the UN Standard Rules constituting an international legal standard for programmes, laws and policies on disability for the future. These Rules were adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993. Without entering an analysis in detail of the legal character of the Standard Rules the main difference between the UN Standard Rules and the proposed Convention must be observed. Unlike a Convention the Standard Rules are legally non-binding. Covenants or Conventions constitute binding international law having been ratified by Member States as also rules, that have become international customary law. The Standard Rules can attain binding character as "international customary rules, when they are applied by a great number of States with the intention of respecting a rule in international law." (The Standard Rules §14). Until then, they serve as a "strong moral and political commitment on behalf of States to take action for the equalization of opportunities." (ibid.) This decisive step - from the voluntarily action due to a moral and political commitment to becoming international customary rules - is what the monitoring is all about; to follow up, to push forward by giving good examples and pointing towards the need of more co-operation and action in order to attain the recognized goal: equal opportunities and participation. To be burdened with disadvantages, living in isolation and deemed to inactivity; confronted with the indifference of others, is not what human life is meant to be.

A global survey

In order to moving towards a more accurate assessment of the world-wide implementation of The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on Disability decided to make an inquiry among the Member States. The decision was taken, in consultation with the Panel of Experts, that an inquiry should be made on four of the twenty-two Standard Rules namely the following: the Rules on Legislation, on Accessibility, on Co-ordination of Work and on Organizations of Persons with Disabilities. The inquiry should help to distinguish progress, to designate patterns where countries are approaching equalization of opportunities, thus assisting, advising and supporting countries, especially developing countries, in their implementation efforts.

The preparation of the questionnaire started in August 1995 and was completed in December 1996. The survey research method using a questionnaire to elicit information was employed, since it offers an efficient way of collecting data. Being a descriptive survey it mainly aims at analysing the findings as percentage frequency counts, presented in a tabular form. It must be emphasized that there was never the time, nor the aim, of carrying out a more thorough sociological analysis.

A questionnaire was created requesting information on Legislation (Rule 15), Accessibility (Rule 5), Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (Rule 18) and Co-ordination of Work (Rule 17) (see Annex I). In order to receive a more comprehensive picture some questions on General Policy were added. Given the

variations existing between the 185 UN Member States in economic, political and cultural life, the task of making the questionnaire was rather complicated and it is hardly surprising that certain questions require a broad interpretation. The questionnaire was completed in December 1995 and sent out to all Governments of the 185 UN Member States and, in addition, to 600 national NGO's within the disability field. It was pointed out that the questionnaire specifically focuses on the implementation of the Rules, principally through legislative action, administrative rules or regulatory measures. For those given the task to answer the questionnaire it was also emphasized that the objective was to identify the official policy of the country. Identical questionnaires were sent to Governments and NGO's. Within a month the Governments and the NGO's received a reminder where - once more - the importance of their participation in this survey was underlined.

By August 1996 the questionnaire had elicited 83 responses from Governments. Answers came from Member States all over the world. A classification according to regions gives the following distribution of responses: 24 countries from Industrialized Countries, 14 countries from the Middle East and North Africa, 15 countries from Countries in Transition, 11 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, 11 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa and 8 countries from South, East Asia and the Pacific. The responses from Governments of Member States reached 45 percent, which is a high score for such surveys within the UN system. 163 answers came from NGO's, that is, 27 percent responded to the questionnaire. The total number of countries covered by the replies from Governments in Member States and NGO's in these Member States are 126.

The results presented in this report are the outcome of the study of these replies. The very interesting idea of including the NGO's in the survey did present some new problems of comparability. Of course a comparison between the Governments and the NGO's presupposes a common unit: the country. But, from some countries there is an answer only from the Government, and from 30 countries there is no NGO reply at all; furthermore, there are also countries with more than one NGO replying but these do not always give concordant answers. A comparison requires further analysis of the data. In a coming study the views from Governments and the NGO's are going to be compared and the differences in their responses interpreted. In this study the results from the NGO's are only presented in simple frequency distributions.

In part I the country replies are summarised and are presented according to a classification in regions. This classification - common in many UN reports - has the advantage of presenting the countries in a context and not with the randomness of the alphabetical listing. Classification according to regions is not unproblematic; there are countries that do not fit easily in the common scheme (Cyprus and Malta for instance). But, the advantages are outweighing the disadvantages since countries belong to some context formed upon common history and/or level of socio-economic development and/or cultural-religious life.

Part I of this report presents and analyses the results from the Governments' replies. In order to facilitate comparisons the data are presented in tables. Each table corresponds to a question in the questionnaire (the number of the question is marked). The reader who wishes a general overview may consult only Part I. Still, analysis requires reference to the concrete cases and these could be found in Part II. Here the information is presented in a rather detailed form in order to make the answers of the responding Member States known. The preliminary results of the NGO's replies are presented in tables in Part III.

The United Nations and its specialized agencies are continually monitoring the legal status of disabled persons and the various services - education, employment, health care etc. - legislated for them. The efforts of this study largely comply with the efforts of the UN

specialized agencies examining national policy, to determine the legal rights enjoyed by disabled people in different countries and to identify the problems in connection with the implementation. I hope that the data provided in this report in some way will have positive effects for persons with disabilities even if the figures are not always so positive.

Methodological considerations

Sociological research involves comparison of cases or variables which are similar in some respects and dissimilar in others. Comparability of data in this type of studies is highly problematic due to definition and other problems, which are specific for the cultural settings to which they belong. A well-known methodological problem when studying institutional and macro-social factors across different societies, is whether the units of comparison and the indicators chosen to compare differences or similarities are genuinely comparable and could legitimately be used outside their specific cultural settings. For instance, can we estimate the equality of opportunity for participation of disabled people irrespective of whether the person is living in a village in a Sub-Saharan country or in a big city in a country of Advanced Market Economies?

Comparing countries is a type of comparison particularly necessary for the UN since, on the one hand, it constitutes a unit representing the international community, on the other, is established through another kind of unit, autonomous and distinct, namely the nation-state. As an international organization the UN is concerned with world-wide issues, mainly social - the development of megacities, the situation of children, women, refugees, the disabled people - but the reality encountered is always within the context of the nation-state. Thus, the problems concerning comparison are enormous, at the same time being tremendously important to overcome. Each country has its own specific social organization, its own way of defining and solving problems.

The problem of comparability derives from the fact that the measures themselves are embedded in different structural and cultural contexts. The measures originate from the social structure and culture within which they occur. The context of the measure must therefore be taken into account before comparisons are made of the measures themselves. If the meaning of what we are comparing depends upon the context, the context must be taken into account before the comparison is made.

One way of tackling this problem is to group the countries according to regions, that is giving them a common socio-economic context, as has been argued earlier. Another is taking into account the very meaning of the concept 'disability' which differs from country to country. Not surprisingly, none of the existing classification systems and none of the definitions of who is to be classified as disabled, belonging to this or that category, provide a common framework for the different Member States. The lack of a common classification system is evident in the vague definitions of who is entitled to what services. The result thereof are great difficulties for a comparative analysis about service provision since, for instance, persons with mild disabilities in some countries are regarded as disabled, while in others as non-disabled.

In the Standard Rules the concepts of disability and handicap are defined with a different approach than that of individualising disability and presupposing a static environment. Disability has long been defined on the basis of medical factors and only more recently on the basis of social conditions. According to the first definition a person is disabled if he/she has a medically recognized condition or is unable to do anything. According to the second definition a person is disabled because he/she is discriminated against due to barriers, fear, myth or attitude. Without rejecting the medical conditions, the Standard Rules emphasize that the environment plays a decisive role in the life of persons with disabilities. Physical and socio-cultural barriers can very effectively prevent a person with

a disability from living an active life. The environment is perceived not as a norm to which the person must adapt, but rather as a variable which can and should be fashioned by society to meet the demands of all persons, in variance with their needs. The point is that disability in itself does not necessarily lead to handicap, neither that similar disabilities by themselves lead to a greater handicap for a person living in a country in the Caribbean than a person living in a industrialised country. Handicap is a social science concept. It refers to the social differences between disabled and non-disabled people which are created, variable over time, within and across cultures. Handicap is affected by age, class, religion and by the geographical, economic and political environment. Therefore, the particular socio-economic and cultural or religious context cannot be ignored in determining disabled persons' opportunities for participation. The concept of handicap can then be used as an analytical tool for assessing the socio-economic situation of persons with disabilities, through reporting on rights and benefits guaranteed by law, lack of services, negative community attitudes, prejudice towards disabled persons, opportunities for independent living, transport arrangements, public media programmes etc.

The distinction between disability and handicap is important as it indicates the necessity of going beyond support to the individual - medical care, rehabilitation, support services - in order to reducing functional limitations and increasing independence. For there to be true equality of opportunity, the issues of accessibility, education, employment, minimum wage, social security etc. must be addressed. The distinction underscores the importance of legislative action in order to create an accessible environment and to take action to raising awareness in society about persons with disabilities.

Having decided to measure the prevalence of handicap, the challenge is to develop a way of capturing the hindrances depending on the social environment. There has been a tendency, in the past to concentrate almost entirely on disability indicators. The meaning of equalization of opportunities for participation' as explained in the Standard Rules, namely to ensure that persons with disabilities "as members of their societies, may exercise the same rights and obligations as others" draw the attention to the fact that other categories of indicators, that is, indicators helping to identify obstacles preventing persons with disabilities to participate in society are being necessary. This study collects information on social factors which have an impact on persons with disabilities and are a hindrance, or a support, for them to participate in the way of the non-disabled.

The chosen indicators aim at identifying the main social and economic factors, which constrain persons with disabilities to participate: handicap policy indicators; accessibility in physical and socio-cultural environment indicators; indicators of legislative action; indicators of co-ordinated involvement and indicators of organized action by disabled persons in interest groups. This kind of indicators, however, are subject to interpretation and are certainly not suitable (and not meant) as indicators in individual situations.

In order to increase the validity of the survey, comparability was looked for in the answers given by a Government, on the one hand, and the organization or organizations from that country, on the other. The reply from a Government gives the official view, the other is the view of an engaged part. Sometimes the official view is more coherent and more well-informed on details concerning each category of disability, sometimes the reply of an NGO is a telling example of the distance between what has been decided and what has been achieved. In this study, though, in a number of questions the answers from the Governments and NGO's are coinciding to a great extent, which could be interpreted as a verification of the accuracy of the given answers. It could also point towards a successful policy on the mentioned questions. But there are questions with significant differences, which I will analyse in a coming study.

General Policy

An officially recognized disability policy is essential for the attainment of equality of opportunity. The aim of this part of the questionnaire was to identify the existence of such policy and its form. The existence of a disability policy can be measured by the extent to which relevant legislation has been enacted, information campaigns undertaken etc.

In the first question the respondents were asked to indicate whether there is an officially recognized disability policy and in what way is it expressed. As Table 1 shows, the majority of the countries, i.e. 71 out of 82 providing information on this issue, have an officially recognized disability policy. Only 11 countries - Ghana, Israel, Namibia, S:t Kitts, S:t Lucia, South Africa, S:t Christopher, Madagascar, Malawi, Liechtenstein, Tanzania - report not having an officially recognized disability policy. With the exception of Liechtenstein all of them are developing countries.

Table 1 (Question No. 1)

Number of countries having an officially recognized disability policy expressed in:

Disability policy expressed in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting having an officially recognized policy	71	86,6
Reporting not having an officially recognized policy	11	13,4
Law	61	74,4
Guidelines adopted by the Government	50	61,0
Guidelines adopted by a disability council	26	31,7
Policy adopted by political parties	16	19,5
Policy adopted by NGO's	23	28,0

Total 82, No answer 3

In 10 countries - Malta, Sri Lanka, Denmark, Eritrea, Austria, the Maldives, Pakistan, Guinea, Barbados, Belgium (Francophone) - the officially recognized disability policy is not expressed in law but in guidelines and/or in different policy documents.

In question 2 respondents were asked to indicate, where the emphasis in national disability policy lies. The aim was to find out whether disability policy focuses on a welfare approach, or if it focuses on changes in the environment or towards the making of rules to eliminate discriminating conditions in society. As Table 2 indicates the highest ranking emphasis among countries is on rehabilitation and prevention, while there is less emphasis on accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law. Accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law are very seldom emphasized which could be explained by the difficulty of their organization and financing. Unquestionably, it is clear that the traditional approach to disability is still very widespread. Only a few industrialized countries have enacted laws which make various forms of discrimination, including those directed specifically against disabled persons, punishable offences. Anti-discrimination legislation, particularly the one referring specifically to disabled persons, is an appropriate way of combating certain reprehensible attitudes, particularly in so far it affords the possibility of suing persons who have been guilty of discrimination.

Table 2 (Question No. 2)

The emphasis of disability policy

Emphasis in national policy	Number of countries indicating respective emphasis				
	1	2	3	4	5
Prevention	28	10	9	7	10
Rehabilitation	16	33	11	7	1
Individual support	15	13	16	12	8
Accessibility measures	4	8	16	26	7
Anti-discrimination law	12	3	10	7	27

1 = very strong emphasis, 5 = very weak emphasis

When individual support is given more emphasis than accessibility measures, it might indicate that disability policy has a welfare approach directed towards assisting persons with disabilities, while with the emphasis being on the accessibility measures or anti-discrimination law, the policy has a rights-based approach directed towards the creation of formal possibilities to equal opportunity. From the information available it can be concluded that disability policy in the majority of countries is characterised by a welfare approach. The policy aims at supporting the individual in order to reduce the functional limitations and to increase independence. More rarely the disability policy is characterised by a rights-based approach, i.e. an approach where aspects of society are regarded as the main obstacles impeding persons with disabilities to participate in society. Only lately this movement towards a rights-based approach to disability takes place. One major new development is the introduction of legislation protecting disabled persons against discrimination (e.g. in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States).

In the third and last question of the general policy part respondents were asked to indicate if, since the adoption of the Rules, any measures had been taken by the Government to initiate and support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation for persons with disabilities. As is shown in Table 3, 63 out of 78 countries providing information on this question reported that through various methods the Government has conveyed the message.

Table 3 (Question No. 3)

Government action to convey the message of full participation

Conveying the message of full participation	Frequency	Valid Percent
Governments reporting action	63	80,8
Governments reporting no action	15	19,2

Total 78, No answer 7

Of course, the actions taken by the Governments vary. The most frequent measures being mentioned are the following: translation of the Rules; translation and publication into an easy reader version, development of educational materials in order to raise the awareness of the public; television and radio programmes conveying the message of full participation; support to research projects; support to NGO's that propagate the message of full participation; advertisements in newspapers; donations in order to support the work of the Special Rapporteur. Some Governments have in their answers stated that information campaigns had been supported to convey the message of full participation, but failed to specify the kind of support. As many as 15 countries report that the Government has not, since the adoption of the Rules, done anything to convey the message of full participation. This is rather astonishing, three years after the adoption of

Legislation

Law forms the fundamental framework from which mechanisms for equality of opportunity can be established. The term human rights refers to rights that pertain to individuals simply because they are human. "They are, as it were, innate rights, not rights that are acquired through achievement or qualification." (Aubert 1989:413) Since human rights inhere in all human beings by virtue of their humanity alone, they are inalienable and universal rights. From this distinguishing characteristic follows that we cannot discriminate between different individuals in respect of their human rights: neither functional impairment nor talent entitles any individual to any more or any fewer human rights than any one else (Sieghart 1985:75).

A human rights approach implies legal reasoning. The task consists in finding authoritative principles to underpin, by a deductive method, the imposition of an obligation upon some agency capable of fulfilling the demand. For instance, one authoritative principle states that human life is of equal value; each man is infinite worth. To regard the life of a man with a physical or mental impairment as being of less value than that of a man without impairment is a violation of this principle. Thus, the human rights approach implies, among other things, the creation of a legislation giving persons with disabilities and their organizations the lever to ensure that there is effective advocacy for their rights. It offers an overall approach to the problems of disability involving all sectors of society. Structural transformation, involving redistribution of economic and political power is implicit in any application of the human rights' strategy. As in the struggle against racism, discrimination based on sex or ethnicity, advocates and policy-makers chose to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities by reference to human rights.

In order to present a broad picture of national legislation concerning the rights of disabled persons, the present study reviews general aspects of such legislation in various countries. The aim of question 4 was to find out whether the Government has enacted laws on rights to protect individuals and groups from discrimination on the basis of disability. This can be done either by general legislation, special legislation or a combination of the these two types. The provisions in general legislation intend to apply equally to all persons, regardless of ability or disability. Special legislation draws attention to the particular relevance of disability and creates specific protections. Special legislation is advocated when general legislation fails to provide the protection for which it is intended. Special legislation could be said to be a stronger legislation, since it specifically refers to the rights of disabled people.

As Table 4 shows the most common type of legislation is to use both special and general legislation or a combination of these two types as done by 56 countries, i.e. they make specific amendments specifically referring to the rights of disabled persons within the general legislation. While 8 countries report that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected only by special legislation and 18 countries - Ghana, Malta, Oman, Namibia, Hungary, S:t Kitts and Nevis, S:t Lucia, Eritrea, Yemen, the Maldives, Luxembourg, S:t Christopher and Nevis, Switzerland, Holy See, Guinea, Qatar, Tanzania - report that their rights are protected only by general legislation. The great diversity among these countries indicates that the level of socio-economic development or law tradition cannot play an essential role in the choice of legislation.

Table 4 (Question No. 4)

Types of legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities

Types of legislation	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries reporting having only special legislation	8	9,8
Countries reporting having only general legislation	18	22,0
Countries with a combination of these two types	56	68,3

Total 82, No answer 3

In question 5 the aim was to find out whether there are mechanisms to protect disabled people's citizenship rights. Judicial mechanisms as well as administrative and other non-judicial bodies are the institutional arrangements through which citizenship is realised, i.e. citizens have the right to bring actions before a law court or to a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues in order to defend their rights. The protection of the rights of disabled people thereby to a large extent depends on the enforcement mechanism build into the legislation. Laws remain ineffective, unless there are judicial mechanisms and/or other non-judicial bodies to object against their infringement or neglect. In other words, the efficacy of the legislative framework to protect the rights of persons with disabilities largely hinges on the capacity of disabled people to benefit from the law's protections and benefits. This means usually gaining access to the court system and providing testimony. As Table 5 shows, the status of persons with disabilities in relation to the enforcement mechanisms is not always clear.

Table 5 (Question No. 5)
Mechanisms to protect citizenship rights

Judicial/non-judicial mechanisms	Frequency	Valid Percent
Due process	62	72,9
Recourse procedure	13	15,3
Ombudsman	24	28,2
Governmental body (administrative)	49	57,6
Expert bodies	15	17,6
Arbitration/conciliation body	10	11,8

Total 85, No answer 0

Table 5 shows that in the majority of the countries mechanisms have been adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The most usual judicial mechanism adopted is legal remedy through the courts, while the most usual non-judicial is a Governmental body (administrative). 16 countries report lacking judicial mechanism. It is a discouraging fact that only 28% of the countries reviewed have promoted national legislation ensuring people with disabilities to have access to an ombudsman who can receive complaints about abuse of human rights and take corrective action.. In two countries there is neither a judicial nor any non-judicial mechanism/arrangement to protect the rights of disabled people. In these cases they do not even have access to the court system, i.e. their testimony is not regarded as valid because of their disability. This is a serious infringement of the human rights.

Human rights implies rights and freedom to which every human being is entitled. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) spells out most of the principal rights that must be protected. There are two international Covenants binding the parties having ratified them: the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In question 6 the aim was to find out whether general legislation applies to persons with

differential treatment. Question 6 is dealing with the interest or the privilege recognized and protected by law and the freedom to exercise power conferred by law. Citizenship exists only when a person has duties and rights implying the power to exercise these rights/duties. In many countries persons with disabilities are not considered as full-fledged citizens, as is shown in Table 6, that is, general legislation does not apply to one or several rights e.g. the right to vote, property rights, right to privacy etc. However, in the majority of the countries disability is not used as a basis for differential treatment.

Table 6 (Question 6)
Civil and political rights of persons with disabilities

Countries reporting that general legislation does not apply with respect to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Education	10	12,5
Employment	10	12,5
The right to marriage	18	22,5
The right to parenthood/family	17	21,3
Political rights	14	17,5
Access to law court	18	22,5
Right to privacy	18	22,5
Property rights	18	22,5

Total 80, No answer 5

As it is indicated in the Table 6, in 10 countries out of 80 providing information the right to education and the right to employment is not by law guaranteed to disabled people; in 18 countries the right to marriage is not guaranteed by law; in 18 countries the rights to parenthood/family, access to law court, privacy, property are not guaranteed by law, and in 14 countries persons with disabilities have no political rights. In countries where persons with disabilities have no political rights they have no permission to vote or stand for election. When disaggregating the data according to kind of disability, it can be inferred that these legal barriers are most evident in the sphere of mental disability. There is a general agreement that persons with mental disabilities are among the most discriminated groups. The findings of the present study fully confirm this view. As regards exclusion from the right to marriage, to parenthood/family, access to law courts, property and political rights, they are all examples of the factual discrimination occurring through legislation and regulations. Legislation may actually prohibit disabled people (in particular those with mental disabilities) to exercise these rights, based on perceptions about their capacities and role in society. For instance, the laws in some countries governing property exclude disabled persons from owning property. There may also be legal provisions forbidding disabled persons from entering into contracts in their own name. This is a *de jure* (as a matter of law) segregation - legally sanctioned discrimination - which these Governments are rectifying in their legislation. Such laws sanction prejudices and give grounds for devaluation of persons with disabilities. Such laws sanction a kind of direct discrimination occurring when in comparable circumstances a person with a disability is treated less favourably than a non-disabled person.

In question 7 the aim was to find the existence of any legislation giving attention to the wider availability of health services and institutionalized social security. Social citizenship is meant to be realized through the rights of health and medical care, financial security (income maintenance/insurance), independent living, participation in decisions affecting the interested persons etc. The right to employment, health and medical care etc. are not to be seen as indicators measuring the present socio-economic conditions of disabled people, nor their quality of life. They are to be seen as indicators measuring how well institutional

arrangements have been worked out in establishing social and economic conditions for persons with disabilities. When a certain country replies that one, or all, of these benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities, this does not mean that the rights are being implemented, it only indicates the existence of a legal basis for these benefits. On the other hand, when nothing or little is guaranteed by law, persons with disabilities are really a disadvantageous group; the prevalence of handicap is high.

Many persons with disabilities are socially and economically marginalised. Reforms at system level are necessary in many countries in order to assuring persons with disabilities more equitable possibilities to partake in education, employment, decisions affecting them. Individuals who, for whatever reason, are unable to provide for their own financial security (income maintenance/insurance) should by law be guaranteed financial security providing them with adequate levels of support. They can thus avoid living in unequal social and economic position, in comparison with the non-disabled part of the population.

As Table 7 shows, in 9 countries out of 81 providing information on this issue, the right to health/medical care is not guaranteed by law. In 13 countries the right to training, rehabilitation and counselling is not guaranteed by law. In 23 countries the right to financial security, in 26 the right to employment, in 34 the right to independent living and the right to participation in decisions affecting the persons concerned. In 4 countries no benefits at all are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities. In 33 countries all of the above mentioned is guaranteed by law, while for the remaining 49 countries one or several of the above mentioned are not guaranteed by law. Thus, in most countries one or several of the above mentioned social security and welfare services are, not even within the legal framework, guaranteed to all citizens.

At least in the advanced market economies social security and welfare services are funded through taxes. With rising unemployment, and efforts to keep the inflation low, state expenditure in social services is reduced. In the social and health budget the lion's share is consequently taken up by other objectives than disability measures. In particular, economic recession in many developed and developing countries has had a negative impact on disabled persons' employment. There is a reciprocity between poverty and the incidence/prevalence of disability. Poor people run the risk to become disabled because of their living conditions. On the other hand economic marginalization contributes to the increasing number of disabled people.

Table 7 (Question No. 7)
Economic and social rights of persons with disabilities

Countries reporting that the following benefits are not guaranteed by law: does not apply with respect to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Health/medical care	9	11,1
Rehabilitation	13	16,0
Financial security	23	28,4
Employment	26	32,1
Independent living	34	42,0
Participation in decisions affecting themselves	33	40,7

Total 81, No answer 4

Despite efforts to strengthen their citizenship, their low economic and social living conditions, and exclusion from participating in decisions affecting themselves have made social citizenship rights to an inadequate basis for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. When comparing the information in Table 6 with the

information in Table 7 it can be concluded that Governments have progressed more regarding the enactment of laws which guarantee civil and political rights than social and economic rights. Many countries operate without either adequate free medical care or a social security system that guarantees a minimum of dignity and welfare to the disabled. Persons with disabilities are in many societies at a significant disadvantaged position. Many of the social and economic conditions facing them reflect a basic lack of equality which, in turn, can be traced to a weak legal basis regarding their economic and social rights.

When comparing questions 6 and 7 with question 4 it can be concluded that a correlation exists between general legislation and a weaker protection of citizenship rights for persons with disabilities. Consequently, when the rights of persons with disabilities are protected only by general legislation there are several citizenship rights (political rights, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family), as well as several social and economic rights (financial security, employment, independent living) that are not guaranteed by law. This tendency could be found in 13 countries - Malta, Israel, Namibia, Hungary, S:t Kitts and Nevis, S:t Lucia, South Africa, Yemen, the Maldives, S:t Christopher and Nevis, Guinea, Qatar, Tanzania - of a total 17 reporting having only general legislation. Only in four countries exceptions could be noticed from the tendency of general legislation being sufficient to protect the citizenship rights of persons with disabilities. In those countries where general legislation fails to provide sufficient protection is special legislation preferable, specifically referring to the rights of disabled people.

In question 8 the aim was to find out whether, since the adoption of the Rules, new legislation concerning disability has been enacted. Table 8 shows that in the majority of the countries - 44 out of 83 providing information on this issue - no new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules. This is a curious result. Firstly, the responsibility of presenting legislative proposals lies with the Government. Secondly, the Standard Rules being so advanced, it is highly unlikely that a majority of the respondents already had a legislation, equal with the Standard Rules in intention and demands. On the contrary, a country well-known for its advanced and progressive handicap policy, Sweden, has enacted two major laws since the Standard Rules were adopted (one on functional impairment wholly inspired by the definition set down in the Standard Rules of disability as environment-based, the other about the right to individual assistance for those with severe disability, in order to live as active a life as possible). Many problems are encountered in the implementation of the Standard Rules: economic problems foremost (since almost everything from the bottom is a question of resources), there are attitudinal problems, problems of co-ordination and planning, and so on, but the problem of the standard set by the nations themselves not being realized where it could be so, but let to remain a good intention on the paper alone, is disheartening for all of us. It gives cause for the public to hold the efforts of the UN in low esteem. According to the Rules, Governments must accept a major responsibility and play a principal role in the development of policies aiming at the equalization of opportunities for all persons with physical and mental disabilities. It is a hopeful sign, however, that several Governments (47%) have recently adopted legislation which protects persons with disabilities against discrimination and other forms of unjust treatment having adverse effects on equality of opportunity for participation for disabled people. The right of access in the physical environment and access to information and communication is also the subject of legislation. The implementation of this right will lead to the removal of architectural barriers in buildings, transport and other public facilities as well as to access to information and communication, being necessary preconditions for an active social and working life.

Table 8 (Question No. 8)
New legislation concerning disability since the adoption of the Rules

Legislation on disability	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries reporting enactment of new legislation	39	47,0
Countries reporting no enactment of new legislation	44	53,0

Total 83, No answer 2

Accessibility

In the area of accessibility, eradication of discrimination against people with disabilities necessitates eliminating two major obstacles: (a) the inaccessibility of the physical environment; and (b) the lack of access to information and communication. Access to environment as an individual right does not enjoy global recognition. One reason for that is the reluctance of Governments to translate, into practice, such an individual entitlement necessitating large investments.

Accessibility along with education, employment etc. is addressed by the Standard Rules as a basic human right for all. The demand is equal opportunities and the same choices taken for granted by the general population in areas such as housing, transportation, education, work and culture. Accessibility is largely related to social citizenship; it concerns access to physical environment and access to information and communication. But, accessibility is not only related to social citizenship. It is one of the preconditions for exercising political and civil citizenship rights. Without accessible physical environment it becomes rather difficult to exercise political rights (voting right, right to hold office in legislature etc.).

The aim of Rule 5 on accessibility is to provide an instrument for Member States enabling them to conduct national policy which will ensure accessibility in the environment and its further development. The removal of architectural barriers at the place of work, the adaptation of jobs and machines, the safeguarding of the working environment, all such action would help to create equality of opportunity for disabled persons.

Questions 9 and 10 aim at finding out, the existence of any laws and/or regulations concerning the built environment. As Table 9 shows, 23 countries are reporting that there are no standards requiring accessibility of the built environment.

Table 9 (Question No. 9)

Regulations to ensure accessibility in the built environment

Countries reporting that:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Accessibility standards exist	62	72,9
Accessibility standards do not exist	23	27,1

Total 85, No answer 0

As Table 10 shows, most countries have standards ensuring accessibility in public places. But, in only 41% of the countries there are means of public transportation being accessible. Thus, the accessibility of public places in practice is much lower, since without any transportation means to these places, they are impossible to attending and entering. The lack of accessible means of transportation has a highly discriminatory effect, constituting an insurmountable obstacle for a lot of other activities. In fact, it prevents an independent life for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, it is rather astonishing that in almost 40% of the countries providing information on this issue, houses not accessible to disabled persons, are still being constructed.

Table 10 (Question No. 10)
Accessibility of the built environment

Countries reporting accessibility in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Public places	60	98,4
Outdoor environment	48	78,7
Transportation	35	57,4
Housing	38	62,3
Accessibility standards do not exist	23	27,1

Total 85, No answer 0

In question 11 the aim was to find out the authority having the responsibility to ensure that accessibility in the build environment is being observed. Table 11 shows that in 22 countries out of 80 providing information no such responsible body exists. In the majority of the countries accessibility in the build environment is observed by local Governments.

Table 11 (Question No. 11)
Supervision of the accessibility in the build environment

Accessibility in the built environment is observed by:	Frequency	Valid Percent
National authority	48	60,0
Local Governments	49	61,3
The constructor	13	16,3
The organizers/providers of the activities	8	10,0
No responsible body exists	22	27,5

Total 80, No answer 5

The accessibility of the build environment is of vital importance for the possibilities of people with disabilities to enjoy full participation and equality in society. Though this may to a great extent be determined by the local community, it is desirable that the frame for national building regulations to be followed in building projects should be stipulated in national design standards or codes, through decisions at Government level, in order to ensure a nation-wide uniformity of guidelines.

In question 12 the aim was to determine what measures that have been promoted by Governments in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. As Table 12 shows, marking parking areas and installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets are the measures being most frequently promoted, while the use of special lighting and contrast colours for visually impaired are the measures less frequently promoted. 18 countries out of 81 providing information report that no measures at all facilitating accessibility in the build environment have been promoted.

Table 12 (Question No. 12)
Measures to facilitate accessibility of the build environment

Government measures promoted:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Levelling off pavements	42	51,9
Marking parking areas	52	64,2
Installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets	46	56,8
Ensure accessibility in the public places	43	53,1
Improving accessibility in housing	37	45,7
Provision of financial incentives/support for accessibility measures	34	42,0
Using special lighting and contrast colours for visually impaired	23	28,4
Provision of specially adapted motor vehicles	35	43,2

Total 81, No answer 4

While persons with disabilities have always been painfully aware of the limitations imposed on them by the physical environment, a lot is still to be done as the present survey indicates. Although Table 12 shows that accessibility in the physical environment has, for the majority of the countries, started becoming a concern of Governments. However, buildings which are not accessible to disabled persons are still being constructed, the using of wheelchairs is impossible in many apartment buildings, public office buildings, libraries, sport facilities, restaurants, etc.

In question 13 the aim was to see, if there are any special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities and for what purposes special transport are available. Table 13 shows that in 26 countries there are no special transport arrangements, not even in the most initial form, i.e. reduced prices in public transport in urban areas. Special transport arrangements vary to a great extent among Member States. In Israel, for instance, special arrangements are provided for by self-help organizations in the big cities. Other arrangements: discharge of tax on vehicles for persons with disabilities, reduced prices in public transport etc. Special transport, when existing, often means reduced prices or free of charge for the public transport and is available for whatever purpose. As Table 13 indicates special transport is most often provided for the purpose of education but less frequently for recreational purpose.

Table 13 (Question No. 13)
Special transport system

Special transport is available for:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Medical treatment	50	89,3
Education	53	94,6
Work	47	83,9
Recreational purpose	41	73,2
No special transport system exists	26	31,3
Special transport system exists	57	68,7

investment.

Question 14 aims to determine of those impediments when planning to build accessible environments. A number of possible obstacles when building accessible environments were listed, and Governm

Table 14 (Question No. 14)
Adaptation of the built environment

Obstacles reported by Governments when building accessible environments:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Attitudinal factors	43	53,8
Economic/budgetary factors	62	77,5
Technical factors	22	27,5
Geographical and climatic factors	18	22,5
Lack of legislation and regulations	29	36,3
Lack of planning and design capacity	18	22,5
Lack of knowledge, research and information	31	38,8
Lack of user participation	10	12,5
Lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions	17	21,3
Lack of enforcement mechanism	41	51,3

Total 80, No answer 5

Question 15 aims to determine whether there is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and/or construction engineers. The incorporation of a disability awareness component in the training implies that planners, architects and construction engineers have to learn about the laws and the regulations and what these laws and regulations mean for their practical work. The findings of the survey indicate that in the majority of the countries - in 42 out of 78 providing information on this issue - there is no such awareness component incorporated in their training. This is an area where major efforts should be done in order to increase the awareness among the students. Usually, young people do have a more open mind than adults. If the schools of architecture, industrial design, construction, make visible the problems that persons with disabilities are encountered with in their everyday life, many creative solutions will most certainly come into view.

Table 15 (Question No. 15)
Disability awareness component

Disability awareness in the training:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries having a disability awareness component	36	46,2
Countries not having a disability awareness component	42	53,8

Total 78, No answer 7

An issue closely related to disabled people's possibilities to exercise their rights is the access to information and communication. The information and communication rights of persons with disabilities are addressed specifically by the questions 16, 17, 19. Due to the important role of communication in society, deaf people run a greater risk than people with other disabilities of falling into social isolation, which in turn can lead to the development of psycho-social problems. In question 16 the aim was to find out the status of the sign language in Member States.

Language rights for the deaf people implies calling for the recognition of sign language as the official language of deaf people, as the first language in education of deaf people and as the natural language of communication between deaf persons and others. When sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people it almost always implies that it is also used as the first language in education of deaf people and that it is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. When sign language has no officially recognized status it implies that it is neither recognized as the official language of deaf people, nor used as the first language in education of deaf people, nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. This means that deaf people have no language rights at all. When it is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others, but not as the first language in education, there is accordingly almost no Government involvement in the education of deaf people.

Table 16 (Question No. 16)
Status of sign language

The status of sign language as reported by the Governments:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Recognized as the official language	24	30,0
As the first language in education	15	18,8
As the main means of communication	15	18,8
No officially recognized status	26	32,5

Total 80, No answer 5

In 26 countries out of 80 providing information on this issue consequently sign language is used neither in education of deaf people nor as the main means of communication between deaf people and others. In these countries deaf people are deprived of the right to a defence because the judicial and investigating authorities do not have permanent interpreters, being indispensable in such cases. In 15 countries it is used as the first language in education of deaf people and in 15 countries as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others, but not as the first language in education of deaf people.

Questions 17 and 18 concern measures taken by governments to encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The Standard Rules set information services within the wider context of the disability rights. Effective information services are needed in order to enable persons with disabilities to exercise the rights they have won. Such services include text on TV, news in sign language, interpretation in sign language of other programmes, newspapers in an easy reading language, text telephone for deaf people, interpretation of theatre plays in sign language, etc. As Table 17 indicates, 47% of the countries providing information on this issue have not taken any measure at all to encouraging media to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities.

Table 17 (Question No. 17)
Accessibility measures in media

Accessibility measures in media	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries reporting accessibility measures	42	53,2
Countries reporting no accessibility measures	37	46,8

Total 79, No answer 6

Likewise, ca 47% of the countries reported that no measure had been taken in order to

encourage other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. This is another unsatisfactory finding. The possibility to obtain information, especially in the societies of Advanced Market Economies, is an absolute prerequisite for living an active life; without information you live in isolation and cannot even properly utilize what is due to you (legal rights, social benefits, etc.).

Table 18 (Question No. 18)
Accessibility measures in public information services

Public information services	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries reporting accessibility measures	41	51,9
Countries reporting no accessibility measures	38	48,1

Total 79, No answer 6

Question 19 strives to determine the services provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others. As Table 19 shows, deaf persons constitute a disadvantaged group in terms of services facilitating information and communication between deaf persons and others. In most developing countries deaf persons do not even for major events have access to interpretation.

Table 19 (Question No. 19)
Access to information and communication

Services to facilitate information and communication	Frequency	Valid Percent
Literature in Braille/tape	71	87,7
News magazines on tape/Braille	47	58,0
Sign language interpretation for any purpose	33	40,7
Sign language interpretation for major events	30	37,0
Easy readers for persons with mental disabilities	25	30,9
None	5	6,2

Total 81, No answer 4

According to this survey, the most disadvantaged group of all is the one of persons with mental disabilities, while deaf persons only slightly have a better situation. In fact, in the majority of the countries providing information, these services are not provided for to these two groups of disabled persons.

Organizations of Persons With Disabilities

According to Rule 18, the work in every country concerning the implementation of the Standard Rules should be carried out in co-operation between national authorities and organizations of persons with disabilities. The right to represent and the advisory role given to organizations of persons with disabilities are based on the objective that equalization of opportunities should imply that decisions are not be taken by others. Accordingly the active involvement in the integration process of the groups concerned is, at the same time, a prerequisite for and a symbol of its success. In more general terms, the active involvement is a part of the human rights and democracy approach. It is not sufficient only advocating that everyone should participate in decision-making. Genuine participation encompasses the formulation of projects, and their execution and evaluation. Lack of involvement by those concerned and their organizations is not a tiny matter.

Without the co-operation with organizations of persons with disabilities it is very likely that policy makers will misinterpret the directives/guidelines.

Organizations of persons with disabilities should be involved because of their ability to provide decision-makers with insight into and knowledge of the problems, needs and requirements of people with disabilities. Organizations of persons with disabilities are a point of crystallisation for expertise based on experience: the expertise on living with a disability, generated by people with disabilities. Participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in policy-formulation and decision-making of the national plans of action, is also important in order to ensure the implementation of the programmes on the equalization of opportunities. Programmes are more easily implemented when obtaining the organizations' full support and participation. The actual implementation of a programme therefore depends on the interest and co-operation of people who are active in organizations, and hence in much closer contact with the problems connected with a specific disability.

As regards the existence of a national umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities (question 20) 64 countries out of 83 providing information on this issue are reporting the existence of a national umbrella organization. 19 countries reported there being no umbrella organization. In countries with an national umbrella organization, most organizations of persons with disabilities are being represented.

Table 20 (Question No. 20)
National umbrella organization

National umbrella organization	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries with umbrella organization	64	77,1
Countries with no umbrella organization	19	22,9

Total 83, No answer 2

Regarding the existence of legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy making and to work with Governmental institutions the results are less encouraging. In 32 countries out of 81 countries providing information, there are no such legal provisions. In 49 countries there are legal provisions mandating the representatives of disabled persons to participate in policy making. It is necessary to recognize that the organizations of persons with disabilities should have a role in all efforts relating to their participation in development. This role should be carried out at all levels: national, regional and local. Democracy, among other things, implies fair representation and the possibility to influence processes affecting the lives of disabled persons.

Table 21 (Question 21)
Participation in policy making

Participation in policy-making	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries reporting participation	49	60,5
Countries reporting no participation	32	39,5

Total 81, No answer 4

According to Rule 18, in the formulation of disability policy, both the directives/guidelines from the responsible authorities and the views of the organizations of persons with disabilities have to be taken into account. Question 22 aims at finding out, if and how often the views of organizations of persons with disabilities are taken into account. The information from this survey shows that in 37 countries out of 80 providing information on this issue, organizations are always consulted during the preparation of laws, regulations and/or guidelines with a disability aspect, in 24 countries their views are often

taken into account, in 18 their views are sometimes taken into account and in one country the views of the organizations are never taken into account.

Table 22 (Question 22)

Consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities

Their views are taken into account	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	1	1,3
Sometimes	18	22,5
Often	24	30,0
Always	37	46,3

Total 80, No answer 5

As the results in question 23 shows, when the views of the organizations are taken into account, consultations most often take place at the national level - i.e. in 71 countries out of 80 providing information on this issue - less often at the local level - i.e. in 38 countries - and least often at the regional level, i.e. in 35 countries. According to the Standard Rules, measures have to be taken enabling persons with disabilities to participate as citizens with full rights in the decision-making process, of the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes at all levels.

Table 23 (Question 23)

Level of consultations

Level of consultations	Frequency	Valid Percent
National	71	88,8
Regional	35	43,8
Local	38	47,5

Total 80, No answer 5

In question 24 the aim was to find out whether the Government gives any support and what kind of support is given. As Table 24 shows in 66 countries out of 80 providing information on this issue, organizations of persons with disabilities receive financial support from their Government. In 39 countries organizations receive financial and/or organizational/logistic support, while in 5 countries organizations do not receive any support at all.

Table 24 (Question 24)

Support to organizations of disabled people

Kind of support	Frequency	Valid Percent
Financial	66	82,5
Organizational/logistic	39	48,8
No support at all	5	6,3

Total 80, No answer 5

Needless to say, the extent of the financial support varies between different countries. But, of course, even a small support may have significant symbolic effects.

Question 25 tried to measure the extent in which persons with disabilities participate in political and public life. Respondents were asked to evaluate, in a scale ranging from 1 to 5, the extent to which, according to their judgement, persons with disabilities participate in five different areas of public life: Government, legislature, judicial authorities, political

parties and NGO's. The level of participation could be evaluated on a scale ranging from a very limited extent to a great extent. Table 25 displays a clear and traditional tendency, namely that persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature and judicial authorities but to a great extent in NGO's. Maybe the participation in political parties - with the highest score "to some extent" - is a new feature. The tendency - foremost in the advanced market economies - among political parties to take an interest in disability issues could be a result of this participation. Thus, persons with disabilities are underrepresented everywhere among decision-makers. They are rarely represented in government, legislature, in judicial authorities or in political parties.

Table 25 (Question 25)
Participation in political and public life

Areas of political and public life	Number of countries reporting participation		
	Limited	Some	Great
Government	45	14	10
Legislature	44	17	7
Judiciary	51	13	5
Political parties	39	21	9
NGO's	10	10	53

1 and 2 = limited extent

3 = some extent

4 and 5 = great extent

Question 26 aimed at pointing out the effective role of the organizations of persons with disabilities. As Table 26 shows, the organizations of disabled people most often contribute to public awareness, to mobilize persons with disabilities and to advocate rights and improved services. Less often their role is to promote/organize income generating activities.

Table 26 (Question 26)
The role of organizations

Areas organizations are involved	Frequency	Valid Percent
Advocating rights and improved services	70	87,5
Mobilize persons with disabilities	71	88,8
Identify needs and priorities	68	85,0
Participate in the planning, implementation etc.	57	71,3
Contribute to public awareness	73	91,3
Provide services	60	75,0
Promote/organize income generating activities	48	60,0

Total 80, No answer 5

Co-ordination of Work

Rule 17 states that co-ordination of work should be ensured, for the widespread and sustained improvements in the position of persons with disabilities. In addition, co-ordinated and co-operative efforts by Governments and disabled persons' own organizations should be promoted. The most common way of achieving co-ordination between the different Government agencies responsible for various aspects of equalization

of opportunities, is by means of a national disability council or another similar body. The council's members include representatives of both voluntary organizations and Government departments and agencies responsible for providing services. Most of these national disability councils are advisory bodies. In addition to the national council, in a number of countries, the non-Governmental organizations, have established such a council or a central committee in order to co-ordinate their activities.

In questions 27 and 28 the aim was to find out the existence of a national co-ordinating committee or a similar body as well as its destination of reporting. The results of the survey are less encouraging. 62 countries out of 84 providing information on this issue report that a co-ordinating committee or a similar body has been established, while as many as 22 countries (26%) report that not having a national co-ordinating committee or a similar body.

Table 27 (Question 27)
Co-ordinating committee

Co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries with a co-ordinating committee	62	73,8
Countries with no co-ordinating committee	22	26,2

Total 84, No answer 1

Regarding the authority to which the co-ordinating committee submits its reports, the co-ordinating committee in the majority of the countries, 39 out of 57 providing information on this issue, is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs/other Ministry. In 12 countries the co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Prime Minister's Office, while in 6 countries the co-ordinating committee is reporting to other authorities.

Table 28 (Question 28)
What authority the co-ordinating committee is reporting to

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
A particular Ministry	39	68,4
Prime Minister's office	12	21,1
Other	6	10,5
Countries with no co-ordinating committee	22	26,2

Total 79, No answer 6

In question 29 the aim was to find out the organizations and/or authorities being represented in the co-ordinating committee. As Table 29 shows, in a majority of the countries organizations of persons with disabilities are represented in the co-ordinating committees. Representatives from the private sector are more rarely included in the co-ordinating committees.

Table 29 (Question 29)
Representation in the co-ordinating committee

Representatives of:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Ministries	54	90,0
Organizations of persons with disabilities	50	83,3
Other NGO's	33	55,0
Private sector	25	41,7
Countries with no co-ordinating committee	22	26,2

Total 81, No answer 4

With questions 30 and 31 the aim was to find whether the co-ordinating committee by the Government is expected to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, for instance to be involved in evaluation, provide services etc. As Table 30 shows, in most of the countries - 51 out of 55 providing information on this issue - the co-ordinating committee is in fact expected to participate in policy-development.

Table 30 (Question 30)
Participation in policy-development

Involvement of the co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Participation in policy development	51	92,7
No participation in policy-development	4	7,3
Countries with no co-ordinating committee	22	26,2

Total 76, No answer 9

As Table 31 shows in 42 countries the co-ordinating committee is involved in performance of other tasks. Only 11 countries of 53 providing information on this issue the co-ordinating committee is not expected to perform other tasks.

Table 31 (Question 31)
Participation in performance of other tasks

Involvement of the co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting performance of other tasks	42	79,2
Reporting no performance of other tasks	11	20,8
Countries with no co-ordinating committee	22	26,2

Total 74, No answer 11

Question 32 asks for the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee. As Table 32 shows, the fields where the establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had great effects include: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field and better dialogue in the disability field. The fields where establishment has had less effect include: more accurate planning and more effective use of resources. 9 countries out of 59 providing information on this issue reported that it being too soon for an assessment.

Table 32 (Question 32)
Effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee

Effects	Frequency	Valid Percent
Improved co-ordination of measures/programmes	47	79,7
Improved legislation	38	64,4
Improved integration of responsibility	37	62,7
Better dialogue in the disability field	45	76,3
More accurate planning	25	42,4
More effective use of resources	31	52,5
Improved promotion of public awareness	40	67,8
Too early for assessment	9	15,3
Countries with no co-ordinating committee	22	26,2

Total 76, No answer 9

The last question asks for the effects of the Rules on the approach to disability policy. 50 countries out of 62 providing information on this issue reported that the adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy and 9 reported that the adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. 23 countries did not answer the question and 3 countries reported that it is too early for an assessment of the effects of the Standard Rules.

Table 33 (Question 33)
Effects of the adoption of the Standard Rules

The effects of the Standard Rules	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries reporting rethinking	50	80,6
Countries reporting no rethinking	9	14,5
Too early for assessment	3	4,8

Total 62, No answer 23

When a Government in its answer states that the adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking, it does not necessarily mean the approach to disability being in conflict with the philosophy expressed in the Rules. It can also mean that the guidelines in the Standard Rules are very similar to these of the country's disability policy. When this is the case (Finland, China, Austria, Thailand) the reply was classified together with these countries reporting a rethinking, the purpose of this survey being more important to knowing if the policy of a country is compatible with the Rules. Nonetheless, the fact that so many countries did not answer this question - a key in the evaluation of the implementation process of the Standard Rules - remains to be explained. In my view this could reflect an attitude of the nation state, namely the wish to show its independence from whatever imperatives and pressures from outside, even from the UN or some other international organization (compare to what extent the Standard Rules has resulted in new legislation). The nation state is by the very definition a system with its own rules and its own laws. This points towards the dilemma of the United Nations - to partake in the international community, but as a nation state.

Conclusion

The definition of who has a disability or who has not varies from country to country; to a great extent there is a pattern according to the level of the socio-economic development. In the traditional society, there are only four kinds of disability (physical disability, blindness, deafness and mental retardation). With a more complicated society where everybody is more and more dependent of being asserted certain specific rights, thereby obtaining social services and other benefits, the tendency is towards an extended concept of disability.

The survey shows that the extent of the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and the scope of law varies enormously among countries. Moreover, even when the rights of persons with disabilities are protected by law, effective mechanisms/arrangements have not necessarily been adopted in order to ensure the de facto protection and respect of those rights. There is, however, no country reporting no laws at all aiming at the protection of persons with disabilities.

According to the Standard Rules, citizens with disabilities should be accorded the same rights and obligations as others. Looking at the rates in questions 6 and 7 one is struck by the rather high prevalence of civil, political, social and economic rights. It must be

remembered that this is not identical with the ability of the state to implementing these rights in practice. As a matter of fact, these legal rights are in many cases to be seen as declarations of intent. Many countries include these rights in their legislation, otherwise almost appearing to denigrate their value. Law is a necessary but not a sufficient precondition for achieving the sort of social change which will lead to people with disabilities being treated as equals. Nonetheless, if there is a legislative framework people with disabilities can defend themselves against Governments ignoring, abusing or neglecting their rights. They can advocate their own interests.

Many findings in this survey are discouraging. The implementation of the Standard Rules has not been effected as wanted. Four rules have been investigated and, in many cases, the results from the Member States indicate that conformity with the provisions in the Standard Rules has been ensured through legislation and regulations but only to a low degree. Little has been done, if the high frequency of respondents to this survey is not to be regarded as a result in itself. The result would be to interpret the responses as the recognition of disability in practice entering the agenda of the Governments; becoming an issue that cannot be hushed back into silence. Compared with one of the objectives of the UN Disability Decade - to highlight the disability question, to make it a well-known subject and to encourage the policy-makers to address it - there has been a certain progress, but the conclusion must be that the pace of the progress is very slow.

Equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities still remains a challenge to realize. However, persons with disabilities are world wide becoming more and more aware of the fact of being citizens with equal rights and obligations. As regards governments, their feeling of responsibility for persons with disabilities is in many cases certainly minimal, seen in absolute terms, but compared to earlier, this feeling has increased.

Part II

Government Replies as Country Profiles

Introduction

This part is presenting the replies from the governments of the UN Member States according to the region to which each country belongs. My classification - which country belonging to which region - follows commonly recognized categories, as used by the UN specialized agencies.

The order of presentation could seem like a small matter, but it touches, the very heart of the problem concerning the present report, namely making comparisons world-wide. According to my opinion it is unfair towards the developing countries to be put together, in the same context with industrialised countries with other resources and other history. As an example, going from reading about Belgium to Burkina Faso irrespective of what kind of efforts that might have been done in the disability field. This disadvantageous position, thus being created for the developing country, on the other hand rather becomes favourable for the industrialised. An alphabetic arrangement therefore makes up the basis for a possible misuse of the developing countries' "backwardness" in favour of the

industrialised world, that is, as means of priding themselves, or as a rescue in order to hide failures (the situation is after all good...). By presenting the industrialised countries together, a slowing off the process in the implementation in one country, or a policy that makes the situation worse for one or many groups of persons with disabilities, thus becomes more apparent and distressing, when presented in the context of industrialised countries. One way of tackling this problem is to group the countries according to regions, by giving them a common socio-economic context.

Summaries of the Governments' replies

Industrialized Countries

Australia

Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services (31 March 1996)

General policy

The disability policy in Australia is expressed in two laws underpinning a disability policy. The Disability Services Act of 1986 provides a framework for developing support services designed to increase individual independence. The Disability Discrimination Act enacted in 1992 recognizes people with a disability being equals before the law and makes discrimination on the grounds of disability unlawful. In 1994, the Commonwealth Disability Strategy was adopted providing a framework to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Under the Strategy, changes will be made to reduce and remove barriers, which are encountered by people with a disability when trying to have the access to public services and to work in the public sector. National disability policies comprise a package of measures and emphasis - in descending scale - is given to: accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law, individual support, rehabilitation, prevention. According to the Government there has been a move away from a welfare approach to assisting people with disabilities towards methods based on rights with emphasis on equal opportunity. Educational materials have been developed to raise the awareness of public servants to the needs of people with disabilities. A series of posters, pamphlets, information guides and a staff training kit including a video have been produced and distributed. Marketing strategies for promoting the employment of disabled people in the open labour market have been undertaken, with employment support agencies funded by the federal Government. Funding has been provided to create Special Employment Placement Officer positions in a range of large corporations enabling them to identify jobs and arrange large-scale placement for people with a disability.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. The Disability Discrimination Act providing this protection has a broad definition of disability. Judicial mechanisms are available to people with a disability. This includes both due process (legal

remedy through courts) and a recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. The Disability Discrimination Act is an appeal legislation, administered by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. This Commission is a non-judicial body protecting the rights of people with a disability.

The Disability Discrimination Act covers people with a wide range of impairments, including the concepts of physical sensory, cognitive (including psychiatric conditions), neurological and intellectual disability. The Act applies with respect to: employment, education, access to premises used by the public, provision of goods, services and facilities, accommodation, buying or selling land, activities of clubs, sport, administration of Commonwealth Government laws and programmes. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: medical care and other health care, financial security (income maintenance), participation in decisions affecting themselves. The provision of employment supports services, training, rehabilitation and counselling and services assisting people in attaining an independent living are also covered by legislation. Access to these services is subject to eligibility criteria and limited by the availability of financial support from Federal and State Governments.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules no new legislation concerning disability has been enacted.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment. The building Code of Australia provides some guidelines for accessibility for people with a disability. Standards for accessible public transport are being developed under the Disability Discrimination Act. Under the Commonwealth Disability Strategy, an enquiry is being undertaken to ensure that accessibility requirements are included in the design and construction of those parts of the build environment not covered by the Building Code of Australia. Under the Strategy, all buildings occupied or utilised by agencies of the Commonwealth must comply with the Australian standard for accessible buildings. The Building Codes Board of Australia - a national authority - oversees the operation of accessibility standards. The following measures are taken by the Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment are: marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, access to public places, improving accessibility in housing. There are special transport arrangements for people with a disability. The main types of assistance include: concessions in relation to public transport fares, subsidized taxi transport, provision of assistance for community transport. In addition, Commonwealth funded mobility allowances assist with the transport costs of people with a disability who are working, training or seeking work and are unable to use public transport without substantial assistance. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles include: economic budgetary factors, lack of planning and design capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information. Under the Commonwealth Disability Strategy, a program is being developed to ensure that planners, architects and construction engineers have access to adequate information on disability policy and measures to achieve accessibility.

In Australia, sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people. It is used as the first language in education of deaf people, also being recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. Under the Disability Discrimination Act, all service providers are expected to provide non-discriminatory services to members of the public. The commonwealth Disability Strategy provides specific obligations with which telecommunication carriers, major equipment manufacturers and broadcasting proprietors must comply in relation to the provision of non-discriminatory services. The

human rights and Equal opportunity Commission is also developing a guide to assist business enterprises, including organizations in telecommunication and broadcasting, to develop Disability Action Plans under the Disability Discrimination Act. Measures to make other forms of public information services accessible are addressed by the commonwealth disability Strategy which states: "Each department and authority will, in consultation with people with a disability, develop strategies to make information services and documentation accessible for different groups of people with a disability, taking into account language and cultural needs." The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation is available for major events, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization (The National Caucus of Disability Consumer Organizations). There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Disability organizations are consulted whenever legislation or policy concerning disability issues is being prepared and their views are incorporated into legislation and policy where appropriate. This occurs at a national level and at a regional level. Financial support is provided to national representative organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary and political parties and to a great extent in NGO's. The organizations of disabled people in Australia have the following role: to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There are three main co-ordinating bodies at the Federal level. These bodies report to the Federal Minister for Family Services. These co-ordinating committees include representatives of the Australian Public Service, of all major Federal departments, and members from a range of organizations within Australia. The co-ordinating bodies participate in disability policy development, in the achievement of cross-portfolio reform and in the implementation of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy, advising the Minister for Family Services and the Office of Disability. These three bodies have a role in overseeing the implementation of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy and will be involved in the evaluation of the Strategy in 1988. The co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programs etc. in the disability field, improved legislation, better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning and more effective use of resources. The adoption of the Standard Rules has reinforced the Australian Government's commitment to the rights of people with a disability to participate in all areas of public life. The development and implementation of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy will ensure that by the year 2002 all services, programs and facilities provided by the Federal Government will be made accessible for people with a disability.

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (3 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Austria is expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government. Disability policy equally emphasizes: prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures and a less strong anti-discrimination.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the Government has not done anything in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is a recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Non-judicial bodies include a patient's attorney for people with mental disabilities being admitted in a hospital or psychiatric department.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, political rights. Persons with disabilities are by law guaranteed only the benefit of health and medical care (approximately 99% of the population are included in the statutory health insurance).

Since the adoption of the Rules the "Long Term Care Allowance Act" has been enacted.

Accessibility

There are recommendations (not compulsory) for ensuring accessibility of the build environment establishing national design standards requiring that: public places, the outdoor environment, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives for accessibility measures when building and renovating housing and/or for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities, provision of specially adapted motor vehicles and installing traffic lights with acoustic signals for blind persons. Special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities include: 1. Fare reduction for special groups of disabled persons. 2. Provincial Governments offer social services including transport services. Special transport is available for: medical treatment, education, work, recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information for making their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following are examples: telephone amplifier for hearing impaired persons; no telephone charge for deaf persons with a specific telephone set; telephone boxes adapted for wheelchair users. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

Nearly all organizations are represented in the umbrella organization. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national and regional level. The Government supports existing and new organizations financially. Persons with disabilities to some extent participate in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties, NGO's. The organizations in Austria have a role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of: Finance, Health, Labour and Social Affairs, Family, as well as of organizations of persons with disabilities, of employers' and employees' associations, of the Central association of Austrian Insurance Institutions, and of members of the political parties. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as expressing opinions and recommendations on all important matters concerning disabled persons. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes etc., in the disability field, improved legislation, better dialogue in the disability field, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The principles of the Austrian national disability policy are compatible with the principles in the Standard Rules.

Belgium

Ministry of Social Affairs (15 June 1996)

Communauté Germanophone

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Belgium (the German speaking region) is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in guidelines adopted by a national disability council. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on: individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has taken action in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect their rights is due process (legal remedy through

the courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include a Governmental body (administrative).

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves.

New legislation on disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a regional authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures when building or renovating housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, and the providing of specially adapted motor vehicles. There is special transport for persons with disabilities which is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. The following are the most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. There are no Government measures for encouraging media to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities but there are Government measures to make other forms of public information services available. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization in which all organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Disability organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the regional level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities and political parties and to some extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, and provide for services.

Co-ordination of work

There is a co-ordinating committee or a similar body. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Finance, of Health and Social Affairs, of Housing, of

organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs, and of the private sector. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes etc. in the disability field, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, better dialogue in the disability field, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Communautaire Francaise

General policy

There is an officially recognized disability policy in Belgium (the French speaking region) expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on: individual support, rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law, accessibility measures, prevention.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has taken action in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect their rights is due process (legal remedy through the courts).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves.

New legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the build environment establishing national design standards requiring that public places, and the outdoor environment are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a regional authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures when building or renovating housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, and providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. The following are the most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments: economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning, lack of information, and lack of co-operation from other

organizations/institutions. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has not yet been officially recognized as the official language of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization in which all organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the regional level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities, to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improve services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no co-ordinating committee or similar body.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Region Wallonne

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Belgium (Wallonne region) is expressed in law. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on: anti-discrimination law, accessibility measures, individual support, rehabilitation, prevention.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has taken action in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). There are several non-judicial mechanisms for that purpose.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political

rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves.

New legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a regional authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing support for accessibility measures when building or renovating housing, and providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning, lack of information, lack of co-operation from organizations/institutions. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. There are Government measures for encouraging media to make their services available but there are no Government measures to make other forms of public information services available. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the regional level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislature, judicial authorities and political parties and to a great extent in Government and NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a co-ordinating committee or similar body. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Finance, of Health and Social Affairs, of organizations of persons with disabilities, and of the private sector. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes etc. in the disability field, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, better dialogue in the disability field, and more accurate planning.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability

policy.

Canada

Ministry unspecified (15 September 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Canada is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis of the national disability policy - in descending scale - is on anti-discrimination law, individual support, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, prevention.

Through public forums at home and abroad and by stressing that the adoption and application of the Standard Rules are of paramount interest, the Government of Canada has conveyed the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect their rights include due process (legal remedy through courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative) and special arbitration/conciliation body.

The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

No new legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment requiring that: the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by local Governments and consumer organizations. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment, only to a certain extent though: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives for accessibility measures when building or renovating housing, financial support for adapting private buildings, installing lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities which are available for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work, recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are economic/budgetary factors and geographical and climatic factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the first language in education of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. It is recognized as the official language of deaf people only in the francophone part of the country. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available. The following services are - to a limited, insufficient, extent - provided in order to facilitate information and communication: literature on tape, sign language interpretation being available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect being prepared. Consultations take place at the national, regional and local levels. The Government gives financial and organizational logistic support to existing and new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate in some extent in legislature and judiciary and to a great extent in Government, in political parties and NGO's. The organizations in Canada have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Parliament. It includes representatives of Members of Parliament from both the Government and the opposition. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy-making. The committee is also expected to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, better dialogue in the disability field, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not lead to a rethinking but confirmed the approach of disability policy already applied.

Denmark

Ministry of Social Affairs (29 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Denmark is expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government, in guidelines adopted by the national disability council and in policy adopted by NGOs. The national disability policy equally emphasizes rehabilitation, individual support and accessibility measures.

The following actions have been taken by the Government conveying the message of full participation: The Minister of Social Affairs held a press meeting in December 1994. The national council on disability has distributed material concerning the Standard Rules. An

interministerial committee has been appointed in order to work out a plan of action concerning accessibility and awareness raising.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect their rights is due process (legal remedy through courts). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman and an independent expert body.

The general legislation applies to all persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, independent living. The National Disability Council states that legal provisions exist for all the benefits listed above, the problem being their implementation.

No new legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment but according to the Disability Council they are not sufficient. Legislation and other forms of regulations require that: public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment, though only to a certain extent: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives for accessibility measures when building or renovating housing, financial support for adapting private buildings, installing lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. There are special transport arrangements being available for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work, and recreational purpose. The Disability Council states that many factors constitute difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments but does not specify the most difficult ones. There is no awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people, being used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available. However, a particular plan on disabled persons and IT is included in the Government Plan of Action. The following services are - to a limited, insufficient, extent - provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation for any purpose, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There are 27 organizations represented in the umbrella. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws

and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at national, regional and local level. The Government gives financial support to existing and new organizations. The organizations in Denmark have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services, promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee - The Central Disability Council - composed partly by representatives from the authorities and partly by representatives from organizations of disabled persons. The Council is reporting to the Parliament (Folketinget) and to the Government. The Council includes representatives of several Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of Municipalities, of Counties. The Government expects the Central Disability Council to participate in policy-making and to perform other tasks i.e. to advise the Parliament and the Government on issues concerning handicap, to evaluate services and measures etc. The establishment of the Central Disability Council has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, better dialogue in the disability field, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has provided a new instrument to carry out disability policy.

Finland

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (29 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Finland is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the National Disability Council and in policy adopted by political parties and non-Governmental organizations. The strongest emphasis in the disability policy - in descending scale - is on individual support; rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law; accessibility measures; prevention.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules, the National Council on Disability in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has published an easy reader version of the Standard Rules, in Finnish and in Swedish.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The mechanisms which have been adopted for the protection of disabled persons' rights are both judicial - due process (legal remedy through courts) - and non-judicial, the latter including: an Ombudsman in Parliament and provincial Government and Ministries.

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political

rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: medical/health care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules, the Constitution has been amended (1995). The Government states that the fundamental rights of the citizens then were renewed, including several new economic, social and cultural rights. The clause on equality was included in the Constitution Act (section 5 §2), whereby no-one, without any acceptable reason, shall be placed in a different position because of sex, ethnic origin, language, religion, conviction, state of health, disability or other comparable cause. Another clause was included (section 14 §3) under which persons using sign language and persons in need of interpretation and translation services due to disability will be protected by law.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment requiring that: schools, hospitals, clinics, community centres, rehabilitation centres, theatres, transportation terminals for trains and busses are made accessible. There are also design standards requiring that housing is made accessible. Accessibility of the build environment is observed by building boards in local Governments, the responsibility being shared between the constructor and the authorities, as well as between the providers of services and local communities. The following measures are taken by the Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements (decisions are being made at municipal level), marking parking areas, installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives for accessibility measures when building and renovating housing, providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities, installing special lighting for the visually impaired, using contrast colours for the visually impaired, and providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. These measures have been formulated in the National Building Code of Finland, providing regulations and guidelines for the planning and design of premises designated for public use to accommodate the physically handicapped. According to the law severely disabled persons are entitled to transport services for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. Attitudinal factors and lack of user participation are the most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of architects and construction engineers. However, it depends on the professors at the Architectural Universities if this awareness is being considered.

Sign language is used as the first language in education of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are recommendations made by a working group set up by the Ministry of Transport and Communication in order to encourage media to make their information services available to persons with disabilities. At present, news are daily presented in sign language and in text in TV. Measures to make other forms of public information services available are included in the recommendations made by the working group at the Ministry of Transport and Communication. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation available for any purpose, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities, a project concerning newspapers in electronic form and videotapes on sign language.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization (The Agency for Co-operation of the Organizations of Disabled Persons) in which 33 organizations are represented. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. The National Council on Disability brings together functionaries and people from organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Council better solutions can be reached by bringing together an expertise of disabled people and of the administration. When laws or regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared the views of the organizations of persons with disabilities are often taken into account. Consultations take place both at the national and local level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government and legislature and to a great extent in political parties and non-Governmental organizations. The organizations in Finland have the role to advocate rights and improved services, to mobilize disabled people, to identify needs and priorities, to participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, to contribute in public awareness, and to provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The committee includes representatives of seven Ministries, of organizations of disabled persons, as also from the National research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health and from the Finnish Federation of Municipalities. The co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in policy development and to promote the participation of disabled persons in society and promote awareness in raising actions. According to the Finnish Government the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: Improved co-ordination in the disability field, improved legislation and integration of responsibility, better dialogue in the disability field, more effective use of resources, improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy, the guidelines in the Standard Rules being very similar to the guidelines of the Finnish disability policy. However, the UN's Standard Rules have helped the Government to focus on the areas needing attention. The National Disability Programme is based on the UN's Standard Rules.

France

Ministry of Social Affairs (6 May 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in France is expressed in law. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on prevention, individual support, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, and anti-discrimination law.

The Government has not, since the adoption of the Rules, done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation, exclusively dealing with disability matters. The only mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court of law, right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, land, sea and air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures, facilitating accessibility in the build environment, have been promoted by the Government: installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities. There is no special transport system for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors and technical factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature on tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary authorities and political parties and to some extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education, as well as of organizations of persons with disabilities, and from the private sector. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development. The committee is, however, not expected to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation, and better dialogue in the disability field.

Germany

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (28 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Germany is expressed in law and in policy adopted by political parties. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, individual rehabilitation, accessibility measures, individual support and anti-discrimination law.

The Government has supported the translation of the Standard Rules into German, as also their publication and distribution among the representative organizations.

Legislation

The rights of disabled people are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available includes due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include: an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative) and severely disabled persons' representatives (commissioners at different levels for matters relating to persons with disabilities).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. However, in an explanatory note, the Government adds that in the case of persons with mental disabilities the right to property sometimes applies in a restricted form or is subject to the opinion of the care person. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, assistance towards employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting them. The Government adds that the benefit to participate in decisions to a restricted extent applies in case of persons with mental disabilities.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules a law has been enacted acknowledging the prohibition of discrimination as a fundamental right.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea, air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by local Governments and the constructor. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings. The Government explains the difficulty in answering this question, Germany not distinguishing between: 1) statutory provisions not being the responsibility of the Government, but of the respective legislator, 2) statutory provisions being the responsibility of the Government, e.g. for its own buildings etc., and 3) financial support for corresponding measures taken by third parties. Special transport includes free ride in public short-distance transport and is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors when adjusting existing buildings or premises, lack of knowledge, research and

information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Regarding the status of sign language for deaf people the Government states the following: There is no need for an official recognition of sign language. An existing language does not need to be introduced or recognized. For the communication of deaf people or people with hearing impairments the utilization of sign language or signs to help lip-reading (signs accompanying sound language) is increasingly accepted, both in the scientific and in the practice-oriented public discussion. The Federal Government, also, supports the justified interest of deaf people and their representatives in a wider dissemination of communication forms, based on sign language. However, the situation is aggravated by the fact till now there is no uniform sign language mastered by all deaf people. To overcome this problem the Federal Government sponsors research projects aimed at developing a uniform sign language and setting up a uniform training course for sign language interpreters. Yet this does not mean a one-sided orientation towards sign-language communication, since for the integration of deaf people, which must be born in mind, it is important to communicate in sound and sign language - as the situation requires. The more demanding, more flexible and professional jobs of the future involving a higher degree of co-operation and interaction do require improved communication with those who are able to hear and consequently a higher competence of the people with hearing impairments in their use of sound language and written language. There are Government measures encouraging media to make their information services available for persons with disabilities. Measures promoted to make other forms of public information services available to disabled people are various research projects sponsored by the Federal Government and the Governments of the Federal states for improving the communication situation of persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, subtitling television programmes for blind people and financing the provision of interpreters, in particular in working life.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The Government states that there is no national umbrella organization. A co-operation is established between the organizations of persons with disabilities. Legal provisions exist mandating the representatives of disabled persons to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. When laws/regulations are being prepared the views of the organizations of persons with disabilities are often taken into account but they are always asked to submit their views. Their views are being considered both at national, regional and local level. The Government provides project support to existing or new organizations of disabled persons. Persons with disabilities to some extent participate in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations of persons with disabilities have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee. The Advisory Council for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities advises the responsible Ministry, i.e. the Federal Ministry of labour and Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, of Employment, as well as of organizations of disabled people, of other NGOs, and from the private sector. The committee is expected to participate in

policy development but is not expected to perform other tasks. The establishment of a co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Greece

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (29 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Greece is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in policy adopted by political parties, and in policy adopted by NGOs. In addition, the Article 21 of the Constitution makes reference to disability and constitutes a mandate for legislative and administrative action. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: individual support, prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has taken the following actions in order to convey the message of full participation. There have been spots on TV and various events relating to the International Day of Disabled persons. A recent law (1995) mandates TV and Radio to allocate time for awareness raising messages. Proposed legislation recognizes the International Day of the Disabled.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect their rights is due process (legal remedy through courts). There is also a Governmental (administrative) body for the same purpose.

The general legislation applies to all persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy and property rights. However, in an explanatory note, the Government adds that the general legislation is applicable, unless the special legislation regulates otherwise. In special education and in employment policy for disabled persons, and under certain conditions legal rights are restricted by court decision, usually at the request of parents and according to the opinion of expert bodies in the context of better protection of the individual interests. Regarding the right to privacy, the Government also states, that the enjoyment of this right is constrained by accessibility barriers and the resulting overprotection/dependency. The following benefits are by law, guaranteed to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them. Though the benefits of financial security, employment, independent living and participation in decisions affecting persons with disabilities, are legally provided the implementation is constrained by existent resources in infrastructure, staffing and budgets.

Since the adoption of the Rules a special law is dealing with conditions and review mechanisms for the provision of organized welfare services some of which apply to facilities and services for disabled persons.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment requiring that the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation are made accessible. As to the relevant authority for the supervisory function the Government states that this function in practice is spread, this being considered as part of the problem. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Regarding special transport arrangements the Government states that urban transportation is free for commuters and that discounts exist for long distance travel. Special transport is offered for medical treatment, education, and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, technical factors, geographical and climatic factors in some cases, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people, nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media to make their information services available for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, and sign language interpretation, available only for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization for all the organizations of persons with disabilities. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national, regional and local level. The Government financially supports organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in Government (the General Secretary of Welfare is a blind person), in political parties and in NGOs. In Greece the role of disabled persons organizations is to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee. Though the process has been slow, the Standard Rules have helped in organising new services and are taken into account when new legislation is being prepared. The Rules have certainly strengthened the demands of the organizations concerned.

Holy See

Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See (8 May 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Holy See is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: individual support, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law.

The Government has not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The institutional mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts), while non-judicial mechanisms include a Governmental body (administrative).

Medical and other health care is guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority. Access to public places has been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. Technical factors is the most difficult obstacle when planning to build accessible environments.

Iceland

Ministry of Social Affairs (26 February 1996)

General policy

There is an officially recognized disability policy, expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in guidelines adopted by the National Disability Council, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGO's. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: individual support, rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law, accessibility measures, prevention.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has both initiated and supported information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation protecting this

particular group and in a combination of special and general legislation. No judicial mechanisms have been adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. However, there is an administrative mechanism for that purpose, namely the Ombudsman.

The general legislation applies to disabled persons with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights. The following benefits are by law guaranteed to persons with disabilities: medical/health care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws, regulations and/or guidelines requiring that schools, hospitals, clinics, community centres, rehabilitation centres, theatres, pavements and other outdoor environment, and housing are made accessible. The supervisory function in ensuring that accessibility is observed relies on national authority, local Governments, the constructor, the organizers/providers of services. The following measures are taken by the Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets, providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport is available for education and work. The most difficult obstacles encountered when planning to build accessible environments are the economic/budgetary factors and the lack of planning and design capacity. No disability awareness component is incorporated in the education of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is used as the first language in education of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. No Government measures exist for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their information services available for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, and sign language interpretation for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making. The views of organizations are often taken into account when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at both national, regional and local levels. The Government financially supports existing and new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGO's. The organizations have a role to: mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Finance only. The committee is expected to participate in policy development and to administrate the investment fund of the handicapped. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination in the disability field, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources,

improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Japan

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (9 May 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Japan is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in the Government Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (A seven-year plan from 1996 to 2002). The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: individual support, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, prevention, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has taken the following measures in order to convey the message of full participation: distribution of the Rules to Ministries and agencies, local public entities and NGOs, establishing of a Disabled Persons Week (from 3-9 December).

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. There are no judicial mechanisms to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Non-judicial mechanisms include a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

The following laws concerning disability have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules:

- The Law concerning the Promotion of Research, Development and Diffusion of Social Welfare Equipment (May, 1993)
- The Law for Promoting Businesses that Facilitate the Use of Communications and Broadcast Services by the Physically Disabled, to make these services more convenient and more accessible to disabled persons (May, 1993)
- The Disabled Persons Fundamental Law (December, 1993)
- The Act on Buildings Accessible and Usable for the Elderly and Physically Disabled (June, 1994)
- The Law concerning Mental Health and Welfare for the Mentally Disabled (July, 1995).

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea, air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures when building or renovating housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, and providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. Other measures promoted to facilitate accessibility are: training dogs, laying embossed tiles on sidewalks for persons with visual disabilities, training and dispatching guide helpers, barrier-free town planning, providing prosthetic and orthotic appliances, training driving skills, establishing guidelines for private transport institutions, and financial support for establishing facilities for persons with disabilities. Special transport arrangements include the service of buses equipped with a lift. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work, and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, geographical and climatic factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available for persons with disabilities. These include: computerised information network in Braille, computerised network for persons with disabilities, editing and distributing the books in Braille and recorded tapes. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose. Other services provided in addition to those enumerated in the questionnaire are: establishment of "Fax 110", a service that receives emergency messages with facsimile at prefectural police, promotion of the establishment of "sign language KOBAN (police boxes)", police officers and others who can communicate in sign language wearing "Sign Language Badges", Ministry of Post and Telecommunications providing Braille and large-Print versions of Postal Savings and provision of general information booklets at post offices.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all the organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at both national, regional and local level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. In addition the Government supports them by providing information, financial assistance and know-how to the projects of the organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislature, in judicial authorities and political parties but to some extent in Government and in NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Prime Minister and to the 18 Ministers concerned. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs, from the private sector, of persons with knowledge and experience, from labour unions and business fields, and of Ministries and Agencies in charge of public works. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as monitoring the implementation of policies. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has promoted discussions on the accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Liechtenstein

Office for Foreign Affairs (13 May 1996)

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy in Liechtenstein.

Since the adoption of the standard Rules the Government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect their rights is due process (legal remedy through courts). The non-judicial mechanism available includes independent expert bodies.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment.

There is a new legislation concerning disability (e.g. artificial aids for disabled persons), enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places are made accessible. No responsible body exists to observe accessibility in the build environment. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, installing special lighting for visually impaired and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. The national Liechtenstein association of disabled provides a transport service which is

subsidized. It is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose and for any other reason where no public or private transport facilities are available. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are attitudinal factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language in education of deaf people, and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media to make their services available for persons with disabilities. However, measures exist to making other forms of public information services, like the annual information by media from the Invalid Insurance Establishment available. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation is available for major events, and technical equipment for communication.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at national and local level. The Government financially supports existing and new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities, political parties. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

In Liechtenstein there is no national co-ordinating committee or similar body.

Luxembourg

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (15 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Luxembourg is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: rehabilitation, individual support, prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has done the following in order to initiate and support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation: In July 1993 the Government adopted a national programme for disabled persons which outlined the policy for disabled persons. In February 1995 the creation of a co-ordination

committee was decided including representatives from several Ministries in order to establish principles and elaborate measures for a national programme.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts), and non-judicial mechanisms including a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and socio-psychological assistance, financial security, employment, independent living and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation has been adopted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of transportation and housing are made accessible. No responsible body exists for observing the accessibility in the build environment. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education and employment purposes. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

There are no Government measures for encouraging media to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities but there are measures for encouraging other forms of public information making their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between disabled persons and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization for all the organizations of persons with disabilities. Legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties but to a great extent in NGOs. In Luxembourg the disabled persons' organizations have a role to: advocate rights and improved services, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

A national co-ordinating committee, established in 1994, is reporting to the "Ministre aux Handicapés et aux Accidentés de la vie." The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of: Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Transport, Housing and Education. The Government expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development. The committee is not expected to perform other tasks.

The Government, however, states an assessment of the effects of the establishment of the committee is premature.

the Netherlands

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (8 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in the Netherlands is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in policy adopted by NGOs and in policy documents of various Ministries. The emphasis in this national policy - in descending scale - is on: individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has supported many campaigns conveying the message of full participation. These include: Dissemination of the Standard Rules; Support of NGOs propagating the message of full participation; A research project with regard to non-discrimination; Integration of the basic principles of the Standard Rules in the long-term programme for an intersectoral policy on the disabled, 1995-1998.

Legislation

The rights of disabled people are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available for the protection of the rights of disabled people is due process (legal remedy through courts). Other non-judicial mechanisms available for the same purpose include: an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative) and independent expert bodies.

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: medical care and other health care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, participation in decisions affecting them.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Act Facilities for the Disabled (WVG), was adopted and came into force in 1994.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that: public places are made accessible and that housing is made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by: national authority, local Governments and by local platforms of the disabled (on a

voluntary basis, not regulated by law). The following measures are promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, financial support for adapting private buildings and providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. Provisions for special transport are included in the Facilities for the Disabled Act (WVG) obliging municipalities to provide facilities for transporting disabled residents (either by collective transport or by cash payments). According to the Government interlocal transport (long distance) can often be a problem. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work, recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component sufficiently incorporated in the training of architects and construction engineers. In the very near future, as stated by the Government, university readers in accessibility start working at the Technical Universities of Delft and Eindhoven.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status so far. A Committee on Sign Language is working on this issue. However, it is used as the first language in education of deaf people.

There are Government measures for encouraging media to make their information services available, e.g. sign language of certain tv-programmes. The following measures are being taken to make other forms of public information services available: 1. Advisory service for the disabled with the Netherlands Telephone Company, 2. Television services for the mentally disabled. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation available on request, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities, electronic reading of daily news papers and news magazines (via a computer) and text-telephone for the deaf.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There are two national umbrella organizations: 1. The organization of the physically disabled, 2. The organization for the mentally disabled. All relevant organizations are represented cooperating closely. According to the decree established by the Interministerial Steering Group on policy for the disabled - an advisory body to the Dutch Government - The Group maintains contacts with the umbrella organizations of the disabled. Disability organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at national, regional and local level. The Government provides financial and consultative support to organizations. Disabled persons participate to a limited extent in judiciary, to some extent in Government, legislature and in political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, to mobilize disabled persons, to identify needs and priorities, to participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, to contribute to public awareness and to promote services.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport but also to other relevant Ministries. The committee also submits reports to a sub-council of the Cabinet. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries. No representatives of NGOs, and of the private sector are included. Organizations of disabled people are included, having a consultative status. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. For instance,

to identify gaps in legislature and eliminate obstacles experienced by the disabled. The co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

New Zealand

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in New Zealand is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in guidelines adopted by the national disability council. The accident compensation policy is expressed in the Accident Rehabilitation and Compensation Insurance Act 1992 and its associated regulations. The strongest emphasis - in descending scale - is on: individual support, rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law, accessibility measures, prevention. The Accident Rehabilitation and Compensation Insurance Act 1992 and its associated regulations explicitly specify the provision for rehabilitation, and individual support.

The Government has supported the following actions conveying the message of full participation: Health and Disability Act; Human Rights Act 1993; the development of the Disability Support Services Strategy; Health and Disability Code of Rights.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities include: due process (legal remedy through courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman and a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, the right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, financial security, independent living, participation in decisions affecting them. The Health and Disability Act and the Human Rights Act 1993 have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority, local Governments and the constructor. The following measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial

incentives for accessibility measures when building and renovating housing and providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities include a subsidized taxi scheme (up to 50% off fares). It is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purposes. In a note the Government explains that the Department of Social Welfare makes a disability allowance available to meet specific ongoing costs resulting from, and relating to, a disability or a personal health need. To qualify for the allowance, a person must benefit, or have an income that would not preclude him or her from receiving an invalids' benefit. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, geographical and climatic factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people, nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization (Assembly of People with Disabilities) which represents people with disabilities, not any particular organizations. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at both national, regional and local level. The Government gives financial support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and NGOs. In New Zealand disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

In New Zealand there is no national co-ordinating committee

The Government claims that since the adoption of the Rules the New Zealand society is becoming more open to the rights and needs of people with disabilities.

Norway

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (29 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Norway is expressed in manifold ways: in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: accessibility measures, individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, anti-discrimination law.

The following actions have been taken by the Government conveying the message of full participation: The Standard Rules have been translated into Norwegian and printed in 5000 copies. In connection with the celebration of the International Day of Disabled Persons in 1995 there were advertisements in a large number of newspapers. The International day has been celebrated also in 1993 and 1994.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special and general legislation. However, in Norway the main emphasis is on general legislation, including some special rights to persons with disabilities. There are both judicial; due process (legal remedy through courts) and non-judicial mechanisms; a Governmental body (administrative) to protect the rights of disabled people. There are even other administrative and other non-judicial bodies: an Ombudsman, not at the national level - but at the local or regional level in some places in Norway, usually called "Patient ombudsman".

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The Government adds, however, that the law concerning persons declared being without legal capacities, and the law concerning legal guardians (Guardianship Act) make restrictions for some people with mental disabilities. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, participation in decisions affecting them. The Government states that as to independent living there is a project under the Government's Plan of Action for the Disabled giving grants to municipalities for trying out personal assistant schemes.

Since 1993 no special legislation has been enacted, but laws concerning kindergartens, education and technical aids have been changed. New regulations concerning "Supported employment" have been adopted.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that: public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation, and housing are made accessible. The Norwegian building Regulations demand accessibility to all public buildings owned by the Government and the municipalities, as well as buildings owned by private persons or companies. The Road Act provides guidelines on accessibility in the outdoor environment. The guidelines for land, sea and air transport are of non-binding character. The Norwegian State Housing Bank has given a special loan to build accessible houses/homes, called "life-time dwellings" as a result more than half of the new houses build with loans from this bank have this standard. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority, local Governments and the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access in public places, improving accessibility in housing, financial incentives for accessibility measures when building and renovating housing, financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and specially adapted motor vehicles. As stated by the Government

special transport for disabled persons is provided for by the counties. The special transport services are performed either by taxi, or when necessary, by a specialized vehicle. Most users pay share of their own, usually either a fixed sum equalling the fare in mainstream public transport, or 20-25% of the actual taxi fare. For mainstream public transport a 50% discount is granted on the ticket fare to people on disability benefits. Special transport is available for: medical treatment, education, work, and recreational purposes. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information and lack of user participation. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers, implying that they have to learn about the laws and regulations and what their meaning for the practical work.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people, being used as the first language in education of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf people and others. Government measures for encouraging media to make their services available for persons with disabilities include: text on TV, news in sign language Monday - Friday on TV, a few other TV-programmes interpreted on TV, a newspaper for easy reading called "Straight Talk" published every week. Government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible to people with disabilities include: text telephone for deaf people, all telephone numbers being available on data programmes in 1996, the e-mail system adjusted for blind persons, some art exhibitions made accessible for blind persons. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available only for major events, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. Furthermore, some theatre plays have been interpreted in sign language, and blind persons have been helped to "see" the plays. There is a theatre-group consisting of deaf actors and the performances of the group are interpreted for hearing persons.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The largest umbrella organization is the Norwegian Federation of Organizations of Disabled Persons (FFO) with 51 member organizations. In 1996 a co-operation forum has been established by three organizations, not being members of the FFO. These are the organizations for blind persons, physically disabled persons and persons with a mental handicap. FOSS is also a newly established umbrella organization for 20 small organizations of small and rather unknown disabilities. No legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at both national, regional and local levels. The Government gives financial support to run organizations of persons with disabilities. Financial support is also given for research and for projects operated by the organizations themselves. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary but participate to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. In Norway the disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

Since 1993 a Committee of State Secretaries from 7 Ministries is responsible for the

development of a coherent policy for disabled persons. The committee is as such also the main co-ordinating body. The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Prime Minister's office. The co-ordinating committee includes representatives from Ministries only. Organizations of persons with disabilities, other NGOs, the private sector are not represented. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development. The committee is also responsible for the implementation of the Government's Plan of Action, as well as the follow-up of the Standard Rules. The co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: Improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation and integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, improved promotion of public awareness, and improved user participation.

The Government states that the rethinking of the approach to disability policy probably started as early as in the 1960ies, but the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981 and the World Programme of Action 1983 - 92 represented the real starting-point for a new approach in political thinking and action.

Portugal

Ministry of Social Affairs (15 April 1996)

General policy

There is an officially recognized disability policy which is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in guidelines adopted by the National Secretariat for Rehabilitation, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: anti-discrimination law, individual support, prevention, accessibility measures, rehabilitation.

The following actions have been undertaken by the Government conveying the message of full participation of persons with disabilities: the National Secretariat for Rehabilitation has discussed the issue of full participation, it has printed a Portuguese version of the Standard Rules, which has been disseminated. In addition, TV and RADIO campaigns have been stressing the message included in the Standard Rules.

Legislation

The rights of disabled people are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. Judicial mechanisms are available to people with disabilities. This includes due process (legal remedy through courts). The National Secretariat for Rehabilitation is a non-judicial body protecting the rights of people with a disability. The Ombudsman is dealing in general with anti-discrimination issues.

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. However, the Government has attached a special note stating that, according to the Constitution, the mentally disabled persons, provided enablement to fulfil their duties are subject to special legal provisions included in the general legislation concerning: marriage, parenthood, voting right and right to be elected or to hold office in public authorities or even to fulfil public functions, access to court-of-law, in which they are entitled to be represented by their representatives

officially appointed. Concerning the performance of a function before a Notarial Office, deaf and blind persons are considered unfit to serve as warrantors, interpreters, experts, translators, readers or witnesses. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: medical care and other health care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security (financial security implying the following benefits: life pension, death grant, severe disablement allowance, special education allowance, income maintenance), employment (implying: financial grant for self-employment installation, reduction of taxes to employers in order to employ disabled persons in the open labour market, grants to employers for adapting working stations, personalized reception in firms), independent living (it implies: tax exemption for buying private car, interest-free loans for purchasing or building self-housing, preference in attribution of social housing, supported house rentals) and participation in decisions affecting them.

After the adoption of the Standard Rules no new legislation concerning disability and rehabilitation has been enacted. Nevertheless some of the existing legislation was reviewed for improvement or regulation.

Accessibility

There are Guidelines and Resolutions concerning all existing public buildings and buildings receiving public (e.g. theatres, cinemas, museums, post offices, etc.), including those in construction, to make them accessible to all citizens. Local municipalities ensure municipal regulations compelling the implementation of rules of accessibility to buildings and other urban environment. The Guidelines also establish that the outdoor environment, the land, sea and air transportation are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by national authority and local Governments. The measures facilitating accessibility in the build environment are: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors (in some cases), installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets (in some cases), access to public places (in some cases), installing special lighting, sound signals and contrast colours for visually impaired. According to specific legislation of the local Authorities (Municipalities) the public transport in Lisbon, Oporto and Coimbra is either free or subsidized. Special transport is available for education, work, medical treatment, recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are the following factors: attitudinal, economic/budgetary, geographical and climatic, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. The Government has not taken any measures to encourage media or other forms of public information services to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities, and sign language interpretation available for any purpose. Regarding sign language interpretation the Government states that in Portuguese law system guarantees the presence of a sign language interpreter in the Courts-of-Law, offices of notary, housing registration offices and civil registration offices.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization (UCNOD, Uniao Coordenadra National dos

Organismos de Deficientes). In addition, some NGOs joined in Federations, such as the Portuguese Federation of Deaf People (gathering different associations concerned with the deaf population), Sports Federation of Disabled People (gathering several associations of disabled persons). 22 NGOs are affiliated in UCNOD. There are about 250 NGOs duly recognized in the country which are not represented in UCNOD. Legal provisions mandate representatives of disabled persons to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. They are represented at the National Council of Rehabilitation. Disability organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at the national level. The Government financially supports organizations of disabled persons.

Organizational/logistic, juridical and technical support is also given. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. In Portugal the disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The National Secretariat for Rehabilitation is the national co-ordinating committee. It is reporting to the Ministry of Solidarity and Social Security. It includes representatives from several ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, other NGOs, from the Confederation of Employers, from the National Association of Municipalities (Local Authorities), and from Trade Unions Confederations. The co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, including the co-ordination of all sectorial policies; engaging in a permanent dialogue with NGOs and hearing their needs; information and awareness raising campaigns. The establishment of the committee has led to: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has ideologically reinforced the general rehabilitation policy already enforced and increased the national efforts towards the establishment of a national rehabilitation planning for the year 2000.

San Marino

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (18 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in San Marino is expressed: in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: anti-discrimination law, prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts) while the non-judicial mechanism for that purpose is a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to all categories of persons with disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and socio-psychological assistance, financial security, employment, independent living.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to promote accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas. Special transport arrangements include public transport free of charge, available for medical treatment, education, employment and recreational purposes. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of planning and design capacity. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Governmental measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available to persons with disabilities. The only service provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons is easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. The views of the organizations of persons with disabilities are taken into account at the national level. The Government provides financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Disabled persons participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties but to a great extent in NGOs. In San Marino the disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, contribute to public awareness and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or similar body in San Marino.

Spain

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (26 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Spain is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative) and a special arbitration/conciliation body.

The general legislation applies to all categories of persons with disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

Several laws concerning disability have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, ensuring accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives and financial support for accessibility measures in housing and providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport is available for the following purposes: medical treatment and education. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of knowledge, research and information and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language in education of deaf people, and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. The profession, however, of interpreters of the sign language has an official, recognized status. There are no measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available. The following services are provided to facilitate information and communication between

persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The "Confederaciones Nacionales de los diversos tipos de minusvalía" and the "Consejo español de Representantes de Minusválidos (CERMI)" act as the national umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at both national, regional and local level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing and new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in: Government, legislature and judiciary, to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. In Spain disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs and to Her Majesty the Queen of Spain. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education, of organizations of persons with disabilities and experts. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, such as disseminating international norms and promoting political plans. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The Government states that the adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Sweden

Ministry of Social Affairs (2 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Sweden is expressed in manifold ways: in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in policy adopted by political parties, in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, prevention, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has initiated and supported the following information campaigns conveying the message of full participation: A translation of the Standard Rules in Swedish with an introduction of the Minister of Health and Social Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasizing the

responsibility of every citizen. In addition the Ministry of Social Affairs has submitted the Rules to the Parliament, to different Ministries and Boards, to Municipalities and County Councils, to organizations etc.; The Government has entrusted the Disability Ombudsman with the task of disseminating and promoting the Rules in Sweden. Accordingly the Disability Ombudsman has arranged seven regional information conferences and prepared an awareness campaign in spring 1996; The Standard Rules are available in Braille, cassette tapes and in an easy-to-read form.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected both by special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies adopted include: an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative), and national/regional supervision.

The general legislation applies to all categories of persons with disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting them, technical aids, sign-language interpretation for any purpose, state financial support for buying and adapting one's a car of own and state financial support for adaptation of housing accommodations.

The following laws have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules: The Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairment and the Assistance Benefit Act; the Act concerning the Disability Ombudsman; the Act concerning a Pilot Project with Parental Influence on school attendance of children with mental retardation; An amendment in the Act concerning Suitable Public Transport to Persons with Disabilities saying that in planning and implementing the transports the needs of persons with disabilities must be taken into consideration.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment establishing national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority, local Governments, and the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives for accessibility measures, when building and renovating housing and when adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities include municipal transport service both locally and nation wide and specially adopted public transportation. Special transport is available for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work, and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors and lack of knowledge, research and information. To some extent there is a disability awareness component included in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people and is

used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available for persons with disabilities, such as information from the Ministries being made available; the Swedish television broadcasts news in sign language and to some extent with text; special provisions regarding news for deaf-blind people, supported by the Government; easy-to-read books, newspapers, magazines, TV-programmes etc. for persons with mental disabilities. The following services are provided, in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities, and to some extent computer services.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all organizations of disabled persons are represented, with the exception of the Swedish Federation of Disabled Persons, the Swedish National Association of the Deaf, the Swedish Federations of the Visually Handicapped, and about ten other small organizations. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at national, regional and local level. The Government financially supports existing and new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. In Sweden disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services (to some extent), and promote/organize income generating activities (to some extent).

Co-ordination of work

Sweden has no national co-ordinating committee. However, according to the Government measures have been taken in order to strengthen disability matters. The Under-secretary of the State Group acts within the Government as a focal point on disability matters. There is a Disability Ombudsman - assisted by a special council representing different segments of society - having the responsibility for monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities.

Though the Standard Rules are expressing views being very close to the Swedish policy on disability, they are an important and appropriate instrument for developing the policy in this field.

Switzerland

Ministry of Social Affairs (4 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Switzerland is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on rehabilitation, individual support,

accessibility measures, prevention, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, independent living.

There are new laws enacted since the adoption of the Rules. On 1 January 1994 the provision of the Federal Decree of 19 June 1992 concerning improved benefits for old-age and survivors' and disability insurance and their financing entered into force. A revision of the disability insurance regulations of 27 September 1993 also entered into force on 1 January 1994.

Accessibility

In all the Cantons there are laws and regulations requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, public transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by local Governments (Cantons) and the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support/incentives for accessibility measures in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. There is a special transport system for persons with disabilities. The insurance system provides for subsidies for the organizer of special transport. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, employment, and recreational purposes. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacle is the economic/budgetary factors. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, and sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations of

persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, judicial authorities, political parties, to some extent in legislature and to a great extent in NGOs. In Switzerland organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee.

United Kingdom

Transmitted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (12 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in the United Kingdom is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. The disability policy equally emphasizes: prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures, and anti-discrimination law.

The following measures have been taken conveying the message of full participation: Introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act including a leaflet (a brief guide to the Act) in Braille, audio-cassette, signed video, and in cassette for people with learning disabilities.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of disabled people is due process (legal remedy through courts), other non-judicial mechanisms for the same purpose including: a Governmental body (administrative), independent expert bodies and special arbitration/conciliation body.

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to disabled people: health and medical care, financial security.

The Disability Discrimination Act of 1995 was enacted after the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

Legislation and other forms of regulations concerning the build environment establish standards requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. National authority and local Governments review the operation of accessibility standards. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas,

installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of disabled persons, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, providing specially adapted motor vehicles, providing audible and tactile signs at pedestrian crossing points, as well as tactile surfaces to provide warning and guidance to visually impaired people, and support for low floor buses. There are special transport arrangements such as mobility buses, taxi card schemes, concession fares, railcards which provide a discount on regular fares, low floor with access for wheelchairs buses, being introduced throughout the country, light rapid transit systems being fully accessible. The Disability Discrimination Act empowers the Government to set access standards for new public transport vehicles - buses, taxis and rail vehicles. Special transport arrangements are available for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work, recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is not used as the first language in education of deaf people, and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. Such measures are included in the Disability Discrimination Act, in the Citizen's Charters, and in the Central Office of Information. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation for major events, and easy readers for persons with disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The British Council of Disabled People is the national umbrella organization. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at the national, regional and local level. Financial and organizational/logistic support is provided to national representative organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, public services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

Several authorities act as national co-ordinating committees: The National Disability Council, reporting to the Department of Social Security, the United Kingdom Forum, reporting to the Department of Health, the NACEPD, reporting to the Department of Education and Employment, and the DPTAC reporting to the Department of Transport. The co-ordinating committees include representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities, other NGOs, the private sector, and disabled persons, their parents/guardians also being represented. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as publication of practical guidance i.e. Codes of Practice. The establishment of the co-ordinating committees has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field,

more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness. However, the Government adds that an accurate assessment is premature.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

United States of America

National Council on Disability (1 March 1996)

General policy

The disability policy in U.S.A is expressed in law. The National Disability Council (NCD), in an explanatory note, adds the following: although there is no comprehensive, officially recognized disability policy in the United States, a number of de facto disability policy statements concerning specific areas. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) there are by many embraced as the official policy of the Federal Government. There are several other laws containing disability policy. The strongest emphasis - in descending scale - is on: anti-discrimination law, individual support, accessibility measures, rehabilitation, prevention.

Measures conveying the message of full participation have been initiated. For example, technical assistance is provided in several formats, such as training programmes, information materials and brochures, grants and resource centres. These services are provided by several agencies. Additionally, in an effort to highlight the importance of the Standard Rules, NCD in 1993 issued a report to the President of the United States entitled, Progress in Advancing the Status of People with Disabilities Around the World: The Work of the United States Delegation to the Thirty-Third Session of the Commission for Social Development of the United States.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms available to people with disabilities for the protection of their rights include: due process (legal remedy through courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Non-judicial mechanisms include: an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative), and a special arbitration/conciliation body.

The general legislation applies to persons with disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health/medical care and financial security. Benefits such as training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting them are not guaranteed by law. The NCD adds the following explanation: Some people with disabilities, notably of low income or permanently disabled, receive medical benefits as an entitlement. Many other people with disabilities are, however, denied access to health care or have difficulties in retaining the benefit. Maintenance programmes, as to income, exists for those who qualify. However, the persons with ability to work or earn more than the minimum amount will lose entitlement

to such programmes.

The following legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules: The Telecommunications Act of 1996 requiring telecommunication manufacturers and service providers to ensure that such equipment is designed, developed, and fabricated to be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, if readily available. The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1993 also benefits people with disabilities.

Accessibility

Laws and regulations ensuring accessibility in the build environment establish standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea, and air transportation, and housing are made accessible. National authorities and local Governments are reviewing the operation of accessibility standards. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, financial incentives for accessibility measures, when building and renovating housing, providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities, installing special lighting, contrast colours and Braille for visually impaired, flashing signals and audio-loop for deaf and hard of hearing persons. Most people with disabilities pay the same fares as others, however there are some free and discount fares available. Special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities are available for the purpose of medical treatment, education, work, and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design capacity, lack of knowledge research and information, lack of enforcement mechanism and shortage of resources for enforcement. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is not recognized as the official language of deaf people, and is not used as the first language in education of deaf people. But, it is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf people and others. There are Government measures to make media and other forms of public information services available for disabled people. For instance, providing Braille, television captioning, and interpreting services. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation for any purpose, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. The NCD states that all of the mentioned services are available, but not always accessible.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no official national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities. Several groups could however be considered as leaders in their field such as the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities, the American Association of People with Disabilities, and the National Council on Independent Living. Some laws are requiring representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Many others do not have these requirements. For example, NCD is by law required to have a majority of members being persons with disabilities. There is a continuing pressure to include people with disabilities in new laws. Disability organizations are often consulted when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at both national, regional and local level. The Government supports existing and new organizations of persons with disabilities, by providing technical support in the form of discretionary funds and grants, in order to assist organizations of disabled people. Disabled persons participate to a very limited extent in legislature and judiciary and to

some extent in Government, political parties and NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities. In addition, the NCD states that their impact on cultural arts and media has just started.

Co-ordination of work

NCD serves as a national co-ordinating committee. However, there are several other organizations, including the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (PCEPD), and the President's Committee on Mental Retardation (PCMR), also recognized as very important. NCD reports to the President and the Congress. PCEPD and PCMR report to the President. The committees include representatives of persons with disabilities, other NGOs and private sector. However, participation varies according to each committee. The Government expects the NCD to participate in policy development. The current statutory mandate of NCD includes the following: reviewing and evaluating, on a continuing basis, policies, programmes, practices and procedures concerning individuals with disabilities. This includes the need for and co-ordination of adult services, access to personal assistance services, school reform efforts, and the impact of such efforts on individuals with disabilities, access for health care, and policies that operate as disincentives for the individuals to seek and retain employment. The mandate also includes making recommendations, providing advice, preparing legislation, gathering information etc. The NCD has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and promotion of public awareness.

Since the Standard Rules were adopted, after the major U.S. disability Act (ADA) having been enacted, they are being used concurrently with a rethinking.

The Middle East And North Africa

Bahrain

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (25 March 1996)

General policy

The disability policy in Bahrain is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in guidelines adopted by the National Disability Council. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law, accessibility measures, individual support, prevention.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has taken action in order to convey the message of full participation. These actions are: Supporting all the principles and objectives of United Nation Organizations; Ensuring the right of the disabled people,

Educational, Vocational, Health, Psychiatric, Social and Rehabilitation; Providing different Homes, Centres and Institutions for disabled children, adults and elderly; Supporting NGOs for persons with disabilities; Establishing the National Disability Council in order to co-ordinate all rehabilitation services.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The only mechanism available in order to protect the rights of disabled persons is different societies or organizations.

The general legislation applies to all persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

According to the Government's statement new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

Laws and regulations for ensuring accessibility in the build environment establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation, and housing are made accessible. A national authority, local Governments, and the organizers/providers of services are reviewing the operation of accessibility standards. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access in public places, improving accessibility in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities include: local transport free of charge, and 50% reduction in air transportation. These arrangements are available for medical treatment and education. A disability awareness component is incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is used as the first language in education of deaf people. Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information make the services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation for any purpose, text-TV.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place only at the national level. Financial and organizational/logistic support is given to existing or new organizations. The organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

A national co-ordinating committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Employment, of organizations of persons with disabilities, and of other NGOs. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation and integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, and more effective use of resources.

Cyprus

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (26 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Cyprus is expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government and in guidelines adopted a National Disability Council. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, individual support, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

The following actions have been taken by the Government in order to initiate and support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation: Relevant celebrations during the International Day of Disabled; Press Conferences by the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance; Use of mass media; Seminars (All in collaboration with the organizations of the disabled).

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms available for the protection of their rights include: due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include: an Ombudsman, a Government body (administrative) and monitoring bodies (i.e. committees for the protection of the rights of people with a mental handicap).

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, access to court-of-law, right to privacy. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security.

After the adoption of the Standard Rules no new legislation concerning disability has been enacted. However, a new general legislation is under preparation.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulation to ensure accessibility in the build environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: marking parking areas, installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets, access to public places. Special transport arrangements for disabled persons are available for medical treatment, education and for attending Day Care Centres and similar activities. The most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of co-operation from other

organizations/institutions, lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is a disability awareness component in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, it is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf people and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available, such as financing of sign language for the news bulletins in TV stations. The following services are provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, and sign language interpretation, available only for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

All known organizations of disabled people are represented under the umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with Governmental institutions. Disability organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at both national, regional and local level. Financial support is given to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, judiciary, and political parties, to some extent in legislature and to a great extent in NGOs. In Cyprus the disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance who is the President of the Disabled Rehabilitation Council. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs, from the private sector and from organizations of employers and workers. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development nor to perform other tasks. The establishment of the national co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination, legislation, integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy, particularly in the field of legislation, formulation and implementation of national policy and measures, as well as in rendering appropriate services.

Egypt

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (21 March 1996)

General policy

Since the adoption of the rules the Government has, tried through information campaigns to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons are due process (legal remedy through the courts).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment and the right to marriage. These rights are excluding cases of mentally retarded or severe mental disorders. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment and independent living.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules. However, amendments to some articles in the Law, have been made in order to adapt the new trends to the circumstances of the society.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the build environment. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information, and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people. There are Government measures for encouraging media to make their information services available for persons with disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization where all organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. There are no Government measures mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the local level. The Government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in legislature and in political parties but to a great extent in Government and in NGOs.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Insurance. The committee includes representatives from various Ministries and from the private sector. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to perform other tasks (training, advancement of disabled persons, planning). The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Iran

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (13 May 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Iran is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: anti-discrimination law, prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures.

The following measures have been taken by the Government in order to convey the message of full participation: using the mass media, the International Day of Disabled People, and White Cane Day. The week for Deaf People and the International Day of Elderly and other national occasions have been used for information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts), while non-judicial mechanisms include a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

New legislation concerning the following issues has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules: Placement of disabled persons, Subsidise loans for employment of disabled persons, Tax exemption for private centres which provide services for disabled persons, Tax exemption for importing devices for disabled persons.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transport and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by the organizers/providers of services. The following measures have been promoted to ensure accessibility: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities. There are no special

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people and as the main means of communication between disabled persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media to make their services available but there are measures for making other forms of public information services available such as providing Braille material monthly and making films and slides and TV programme for

deaf people weekly. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose. Easy readers for persons with disabilities are not provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Disability organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judicial authorities and political parties, to some extent in legislature, and to a great extent in Government and NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

A national co-ordinating committee will be established in near future. There is a proposal of the committee being supervised by the President of Iran. The committee will include representatives of many Ministries and of organizations of persons with disabilities. The committee is expected to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to improved effectiveness in Governmental decision making.

Iraq

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (22 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Iraq is expressed in law (Social Welfare Law 26 of 1980), in guidelines adopted by the Government, in guidelines adopted by the national disability council, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: anti-discrimination law, prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, individual support.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has conveyed the message of full participation by the way of audio-visual media, national conferences and seminars, communication with Arab and International Organizations.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities include: due process (legal remedy through courts), recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative), independent expert bodies, a special

arbitration/conciliation body, non-Governmental institutes for the disabled, societies and federations.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting them.

Amendments to the Law no 26 of 1980, regulations and instructions have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority, the local Government, and the organizers/providers of services. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired. Special transport is available for: medical treatment, education, work, recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media to make the services available. However, Government measures exist to making other forms of public information services available. No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government provides financial and organizational/logistic support to the organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties. They do not participate at all in NGOs. The organizations have the role to: provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The National Scientific Committee for Special Education is the co-ordinating committee, reporting to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health, Employment and Social Affairs, Education, Culture, Planning, and the private sector. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, such as formulating new programmes in order to promote social welfare services. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects according to

the Government: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Israel

Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (13 March 1996)

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy in the State of Israel.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected from a specific group of persons with disabilities. Their rights are not protected by law. No judicial mechanisms have been adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. There are administrative and other non-judicial bodies available for that purpose. These include: independent expert bodies and a special arbitration/conciliation body.

The general legislation does not apply to all persons with different disabilities. The general legislation applies only with respect to education, employment being applicable only for the veterans of war.

The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security.

New legislation concerning disability is in progress at the "Knesset".

Accessibility

There are regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets but not everywhere, access to public places but only in new buildings. A small financial support is provided for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities, and specially adapted motor vehicles are being provided for. The special transport arrangements, usually in the big cities, for persons with disabilities are provided by self-help organizations. Special transport, when existing, is available for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work, recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication

between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. No legal provisions exist mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs only at the national level. The Government provides financial support to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations in Israel have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, identify needs and priorities, contribute to public awareness, and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Employment, from organizations of persons with disabilities and from NGOs. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks.

Regards the effects of the co-ordinating committee an assessment, according to the Government, is premature, the committee having started only on 1 January 1996.

Jordan

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (5 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Jordan is expressed in law. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: accessibility measures, rehabilitation, prevention, individual support, anti-discrimination law.

The Government has conveyed the message of full participation by conducting seminars and mass media campaigns.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to people with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include: a Governmental body (administrative) and independent expert bodies.

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political

rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility in the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land and air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by the Ministry of Public Works, Municipal councils and Engineering. The measures promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment are. levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets and providing for specially adapted motor vehicles. Public transport is free of charge to all disabled people and available for the purpose of medical treatment only. When planning to build accessible environments the only obstacle is: economic/budgetary factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language of deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information services to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between disabled persons and non-disabled: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization (The National Council of the Welfare of Disabled). Legal provisions mandate the representatives of disabled people to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Disability organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occur at the national level. The Government gives organizational/logistic support to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and to great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Social Development. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education, from organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs, and representatives of the private sector and of disabled persons themselves. The national co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as drafting a general policy and plans at national level. The committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Lebanon

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (21 June 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council, and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, anti-discrimination law, individual support, rehabilitation, accessibility measures.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has done nothing to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court of law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

New legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the build environment. No measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners architects and construction engineers.

Sign language has no officially recognized status. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available to persons with disabilities. The following service is provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of

persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial support to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judicial authorities and political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. The committee include representatives of the Ministries of Social Affairs, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field and more accurate planning.

Malta

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (3 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Malta is expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government, and in guidelines adopted by a National Disability Council. The emphasis is on: rehabilitation and accessibility measures.

The Government states that a disability week is organized every year around the 3rd of December as well as an International day of Disabled People, in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are, up to a certain extent, protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism aimed at the protection of the rights of disabled people is due process (legal remedy through courts). There are no administrative and other non-judicial bodies for that purpose.

The general legislation applies to all persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, political rights, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to disabled people: financial security and employment.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Amendment to the Disabled Persons Employment Act was made whereby the responsibility of this Act was transferred to the Employment and Training Corporation, together with the mainstream provisions in this field.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the build environment. A national authority is reviewing the accessibility in the build environment. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, improving accessibility in housing, financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities and specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities are provided for by a foundation for specialized transport at subsidized prices and available for the purposes of education and work. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles, according to the Government, are attitudinal factors and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is not recognized as the official language of deaf people, is not recognized as the first language in education of deaf people, and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf people and others. The Government states, however, that the University is organising research in Maltese sign language. There are no Government measures for encouraging media to make their information services available for disabled persons. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature on tape and sign language interpretation available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The organizations represented in the national umbrella organization are mainly organizations for persons with disabilities. No legal provisions exist mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at the national level. The Government supports existing and new organizations through subsidy on postage. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and to some extent in NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role in Malta is to provide services and organize social activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry for Social Development.

The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of: Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Housing, Education, from local Governments, the university, from the Department of Social Security and from organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development, to co-ordinate Government work in this area, to serve as a channel between disabled persons and Government departments, and to provide centralised service e.g. ID-cards. The committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, a better dialogue in the disability field, promoted public awareness, developed policies, and centralised services.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not really led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy but they are of great help, giving more authority to the Government's work.

Morocco

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (8 March 1996)

General Policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Morocco is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on prevention, rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law, accessibility measures, individual support.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has conveyed the message of full participation, through organization of seminars, publication of articles in national journals, launching a CBR-programme etc.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected through a combination of legislation and general legislation. There are no judicial mechanisms to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The non-judicial mechanism available is a Governmental body; "Haut Commissariat Aux Personnes Handicapées".

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment.

New legislation concerning disability is in the process to be enacted.

Accessibility

There are no laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the build environment. No measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility of the build environment. There is a special transport system for persons with disabilities including reduced prices for urban transport. Public transport is available for whatever purpose. The most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of legislation and regulations. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services available for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation being available only for major events. News magazines on tape/Braille and easy readers for person with mental disabilities are not provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization ("Haunt Commissariat aux Personnes

Handicapées"). There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee ("Le Haut Commissariat aux Personnes Handicapées") reporting to the Prime Minister's office. The committee include representatives of the commission of planning, of the CBR-programme and of an interministerial committee. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation and integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field and improved promotion of public awareness.

Oman

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (12 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Oman is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by a National Disability Council. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, individual support, accessibility measures, rehabilitation.

The following actions have been taken by the Government to convey the message of full participation: several meetings and discussions on the Standard Rules by the national committee studying the appropriate way to protect and encourage full participation of disabled persons.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. There are no judicial mechanisms adopted to protect their rights. There is a Governmental body (administrative) for that purpose.

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and housing are made accessible.

Accessibility in the build environment is observed by the national authority (National Committee for the Services of Disabled Persons) and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of disabled people, provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Public transportation is provided free of charge (some pay only 10 per cent of the charges) and is available for whatever purpose. According to the Government technical factors constitute the only obstacle when planning to build accessible environments. There is a disability awareness component in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons, except from sign language interpretation for major events, though not provided at the national level.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization though still, according to the Government, being at the "infant stage". Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at the national level. The Government gives organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities do not participate in political and public life in Oman. The role of organizations is to mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, and contribute in public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. The committee includes representatives of the following Ministries: Social Affairs and Labour, Employment, Education, and Defence also includes representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities, other NGOs and the private sector. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as fund raising, public awareness, studies and survey's on disabilities. The committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, legislation, integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

According to the Government it is too early to make an assessment whether the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. The Standard Rules are still being studied by the National Committee of the Services of Disabled People.

Qatar

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (21 May 1996)

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities only with respect to the right of parenthood/family. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and the organizers/providers of the services. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility: marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements are very limited and they are available only for education. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design-capacity. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language in education of deaf people, and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. To some extent there are Government measures to encourage media to make their services accessible but there are no measures for encouraging other forms of public information to make their services accessible.

No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the local level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government but to some extent in NGOs. They do not at all participate in legislature, judicial authorities and political parties. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or similar body.

Turkey

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (28 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Turkey is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the national disability council. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, individual support, accessibility measures, rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law.

The following measures have been taken by the Government to convey the message of full participation: The national Co-ordinating Committee has translated and announced the Standard Rules to all the members, to Ministries, universities, NGOs, federations and to the confederation of persons with disabilities. At the Committee's meeting in 1994 the Standard Rules were placed on the agenda, discussed and a decision taken concerning the enforcement of the Rules. The decision was by the Minister to all the submitted organizations to be followed and enforced. At the Committee's meeting in 1995 the decision was taken that the policies involved in the Standard Rules should be adopted. The decision was notified by the Minister's memorandum. The same meeting resulted in the foundation of "The Committee for the Removal of the Physical Obstacles", "The Committee for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Shelter Place of Employment", based on the Standard Rules. Both committees have started their work.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: a Governmental body (administrative), associations, foundations, federations and the confederation established for persons with disabilities.

The general legislation applies to all groups of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

No new legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment requiring that public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The measures promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment are: access to public places and a special permission for disabled drivers to park everywhere as long as they do not interfere with the traffic flow. Special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities include the following: Some municipalities provide the handicapped with public transportation services within cities to no fee or to a discounted fee. Furthermore,

some transportation services in the public sector such as the Turkish airlines, railroads make discounts for the handicapped. Special transport can be used for whatever purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles: economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in the education of deaf people nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible but there are Government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible such as public television employing sign language and slow speech for the deaf. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature on tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available only for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

Federations of persons with disabilities consist of associations representing four groups of disabled people: the blind, the deaf, the mentally handicapped, and the orthopedically handicapped. These four federations are in turn represented under one umbrella, the Confederation of Persons with Disabilities. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government supports organizations financially. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary but to a great extent in political parties and NGOs. The organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee which "reports its activities to the Committee members". The committee includes representatives of several Ministries, organizations of persons with disabilities, other NGOs, of the Prime Ministers office, universities, the State Planning Organization, the Turkish Radio and Television, the State Institute of Statistics, the Employment Office, the General Directorate for Women's Status and Issues, the Turkish Chamber of Physicians, Metropolitan Municipalities, the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions, the Confederation of Turkish Craftsmen and Tradesmen, and the Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations. The Government neither expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development nor to perform other tasks. The committee has had the following effects: improved integration of responsibility, better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, and improved promotion of public awareness.

It is too early for an assessment whether the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Yemen

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (22 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Yemen is expressed in law. The emphasis is on rehabilitation.

The Government states that since the adoption of the Rules, it has initiated and supported information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts) while non-judicial mechanisms include a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to different categories of persons with disabilities only with respect to the right of employment. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places are made accessible. No measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. Special transport is available for medical treatment and education. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles: economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Disability organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultation takes place at the local level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing and new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and NGOs. The organizations in Yemen have the role to: mobilize persons with

disabilities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Social Security and Labour. The committee includes representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities and of the private sector. The Government expects the committee to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes etc. in the disability field, a better dialogue in the disability field, and improved promotion of public awareness.

According to the Government the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Countries In Transition

Croatia

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (8 July 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Croatia is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has taken action in order to convey the message of full participation, however failing to describe or provide any examples of the actions taken for that purpose.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative) and independent expert bodies.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea, air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport is available for medical treatment and education. There is also a city transport by a specially adapted motor vehicle which is used at individual request. The most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people. There are Government measures for encouraging media to make their services accessible. There are no Government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation being available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all the organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in Government, legislature, and judicial authorities but to a great extent in political parties and NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or similar body.

Czech Republic

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (26 March 1996)

General policy

The disability policy in the Czech Republic is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is

on: rehabilitation, prevention, individual support, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Prior to the adoption of the Standard Rules the Czech Government started the new policy concerning persons with disabilities, by the adoption in 1992 of a national Plan of Actions for the handicapped Persons, which in 1993 was updated and adopted by the present Government. This new policy convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms available for the protection of their rights are due process (legal remedy through courts). There is also a Governmental body (non-judicial) for the same purpose.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to disabled people: medical/health care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, and participation in decisions affecting them.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the legislation of the Czech Republic is being changed to a great extent. Every law and regulation which may concern disability contains special article(s) applying to the persons concerned.

Accessibility

Legislation and other forms of regulation concerning the build environment establish national design standards requiring that schools, hospitals, clinics and other public places, the outdoor environment and air transportation are made accessible. Local Governments review the operation of accessibility standards. The following measures have been promoted by local Governments in big cities to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: marking parking areas, access to public places, financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings, provision of specially adapted motor vehicles, installing of light signalling for the deaf and installing of sound signalling on pedestrian crossings for the blind in big cities. Special transport is available for all persons with disabilities and for all purposes. However, according to the Government, very few public lines are accessible for the physically disabled. Subsidies are provided for individual transport for all purposes. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles, according to the Government, are economic/budgetary factors, lack of knowledge, research and information and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

The right of deaf children to be educated by the means of sign language is guaranteed by the law. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation available only for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There are about 120 organizations of and for persons with disabilities, or their parents, represented in the national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the

representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at the national level. Financial support is provided to national representative organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government and judiciary, to some extent in legislature and political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Prime Minister's office (the Government Board for People with Disabilities). The committee includes representatives from eight Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities and from the private sector. The national co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The Government states that the adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy, disability policy starting only one year before the adoption of the Standard Rules with a new attitude in this field. All aspects concerning full participation of disabled persons were involved in the Resolutions of the Czech Government.

Estonia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (26 February 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Estonia is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and by a National Disability Council and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: rehabilitation, accessibility, individual support, anti-discrimination law, prevention.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has initiated and supported a campaign about the social integration of disabled persons, lasting from June 1996 to May 1997.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted for the protection of disabled persons rights is due process (legal remedy through courts). There is a Governmental body (administrative) for the same purpose.

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The law guarantees the following benefits to persons with disabilities: medical/health care, training, rehabilitation

and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them. Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the following laws have been enacted: The Unemployment Assistance Law (Dec. 1995), The Social Welfare Act (Apr. 1995), The Income Tax Act (Jan. 1994), The Child Allowances Act (Feb. 1994), The Working Hours and Days Act (March 1994).

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility in the build environment requiring accessibility in schools, hospitals, clinics, community centres, rehabilitation centres, outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation, and housing. The supervisory function in ensuring that accessibility is observed rests on local Governments and the constructor. The measures taken by the Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment are: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets, measures to ensure access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, some financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of disabled persons, and using contrast colours for visually impaired. The law provides for the following special transport arrangements for disabled persons: compensation of gasoline for private transport, persons with severe disability having the right to free public transport, persons with less severe disability pay half price in public transport. Since 1995 in some municipalities there is also special taxi service. Special transport service is available for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work, recreational purpose. A special taxi can be ordered for all purposes (where the service is available). According to the Government states that the most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are the following: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is a disability awareness component in the training of architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no measures for encouraging media to make their information services accessible. However, there are Government measures to make other forms of public information accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, and sign language interpretation being available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where twenty-one organizations are represented. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. When laws and/or regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared, the views of organizations of disabled persons are sometimes taken into account. This occurs at all levels: the national, regional, and local level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to persons with disabilities. Disabled persons participate in Government to a very limited extent, in legislature, judiciary and political parties to some extent and in NGOs to a great extent. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services, contribute to public awareness, and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Prime Minister's office. The committee includes representatives from the following Ministries: Finance, Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education, but also representatives from organizations of disabled persons, other NGOs and from a diaconal organization. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development. The co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

As to the question whether the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy, the Government states that "there was no special disability policy before".

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Ministry of Labor and Social Development (15 May 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis is on prevention, rehabilitation and individual support.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has taken the following measures to convey the message of full participation: established a National Body, held consultative meetings according to the Standard Rules, organized information campaigns via the mass media. In addition on the Day of Disabled People, the Rules were being studied at the University of Skopje.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special and general legislation. Regarding the judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities the Government states: "In legal and sublegal acts there is an appeal procedure to realize the rights". The non-judicial mechanism adopted is a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the build environment. No measures have been adopted to ensure accessibility in the build environment. Special transport includes transport free of charge for school children and is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary

factors, lack of legislation and regulations, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language in education of deaf people but is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for major events and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Disability organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations with the organizations take place at both the national, regional and local level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in legislature, judicial authorities and NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Labour but also to other Ministries being commissioned to deal with the issue and to the Government of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGOs. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment of the effects of the co-ordinating committee.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Georgia

Ministry unspecified (7 May 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Georgia is expressed: in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: rehabilitation, individual support, anti-discrimination law.

After the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government adopted the Law on Social Protection of the Persons with Disabilities, which embodies the principles of the Standard Rules.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation specifically dealing with disability matters. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities includes due process (legal remedy through courts), and a recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative) and independent expert bodies.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, political rights, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial support, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

The "Law about the Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities" and the "Law on Protection of Veterans of War and Armed Forces" have been adopted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transport, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority, local Governments, the constructor, and the organizers/providers of services. The following measures have been promoted by the Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts, access to public places such as stadiums, commercial centres, theatres and shops, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities available only for medical treatment, work and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media to make their information services accessible. There are Government measures to make other forms of public information accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The disabled persons' organizations in Georgia have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, identify needs and priorities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body in Georgia.

The Government states that from the political point of view the adoption of the Standard Rules has "aroused interest for persons with disabilities".

Hungary

Ministry of Welfare (18 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Hungary is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: anti-discrimination law, prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures.

The Government has not done anything since the adoption of the Rules to initiate and support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism available for the protection of disabled persons rights is due process (legal remedy through courts), while administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman and a special arbitration/conciliation body.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

Laws and regulations concerning accessibility in the build environment establish national design standards requiring that public places, and the outdoor environment are made accessible. No responsible body exists to ensure that accessibility in the build environment is being observed. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility: marking parking areas, improving accessibility in housing, financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of disabled persons and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities include: The National Federation of Associations of Disabled People runs a specialized taxi service, the Municipality of Budapest runs a service of specialized buses, which, on a modest payment, can be used by disabled people. Special transport is available for: medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are:

economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. No disability awareness component is incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the first language in education of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between disabled people and others: literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where many organizations of persons with disabilities are included. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws, regulations and/or guidelines with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations with disabled persons organizations take place at both the national, regional and local levels. The Government gives financial support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, political parties, NGOs but to some extent in judiciary. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, contribute to public awareness, and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body in Hungary. The Government states that the adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Lithuania

Ministry of Social Security and Labor (13 February 1996)

General policy

There is an officially recognized disability policy expressed in law. There are three laws creating the basis for the disability policy: The 1990 Act concerning protection of the rights of the disabled; The 1991 Law of social integration of the disabled; The 1995 Act concerning the proclamation of 1996 as the year of the disabled. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has conveyed the message of full participation by way of the Proclamation of 1996 as the year of the disabled and the translation of the Standard Rules to Lithuanian language.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are incorporated in: special legislation, general legislation and in a combination of the two. The mechanism having been established for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is Due process (legal remedy through courts). General legislation applies to persons with disabilities with respect to education, employment, right to marriage, right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: medical/health care, training, rehabilitation, counselling, financial security, employment, independent living.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the 1995 Act has been adopted.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations concerning accessibility in the build environment. National authorities and local Governments observe accessibility in the build environment. In order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment the Government has adopted relevant legislation. There is a free, subsidized specially adapted transport, available to persons with disabilities for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles encountered are: attitudes, high costs and technical factors. There is a disability component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language has since 1995 been recognized as the official language of the deaf people. The Government has taken measures in order to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their information service accessible for persons with disabilities. Many kinds of services - literature on tape/Braille, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation, easy readers - are "available but not in all cases" in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There are five main organizations being umbrella organizations for other (smaller) organizations. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Government institutions. The views of organizations of persons with disabilities often are taken into account when laws, regulations and/or guidelines are being prepared. This occurs more often at the national level and more rarely at the regional or local level. Existing or new organizations receive financial and organizational/logistic support as well as "legal, methodical" support. Persons with disabilities participate in political and public life to a very limited extent, except in NGO's, where they participate to a great extent. The organizations of persons with disabilities have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee, reporting to the "Lithuanian Council for Invalids Affairs at the Lithuanian Government." The committee includes representatives from the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Housing, Education, Culture, from organizations of persons with disabilities, from the private sector, from the Vilnius University and from the Kaunas Medical Academy. The co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in policy development. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination in the disability field, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the

disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Republic of Moldova

Ministry of Social Affairs (19 march 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in the Republic of Moldova is expressed in law. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation, by the Constitution, and by general legislation. Legal remedy through courts guarantees the protection of the rights of disabled people. Disabled persons have the priority rights and privileges in medical care, employment, education, duelling and have a number of discounts in public utilities payment and spare fiscal regime. No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

The Law on Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities aims to securing accessibility of the build environment, also aiming at creating conditions of access for disabled persons to housing, building environments, public institutions, public transport facilities, telecommunication and information facilities etc., building, and reconstruction of housing. Installation of communications as well as designing and producing of transport arrangements should be carried out with the view of accessibility for persons with disabilities. The most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors.

Sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people, is used as the first language in education of deaf people, and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf people and others. Government measures to encourage media to make their information services available include TV providing information with the simultaneous interpretation into the sign language. The only service provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons is literature in Braille/tape for the blind and visually impaired.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

In Moldova there are three organizations of disabled persons, the Association of Invalids, the Association of Blind Persons and the Association of Deaf Persons. The majority of persons with disabilities are members of these Associations. There are no laws and regulations mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. However, disabled persons have representatives both on the national and local level.

Co-ordination of work

The Interdepartmental Council for the Disabled, was recently established in the Republic of Moldova acting as the national co-ordinating committee. The Council includes representatives from Ministries, from NGOs and from organizations of persons with disabilities. It is too early to make any appreciation of the effects of the new council.

Poland

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (10 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Poland is expressed: in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, and in policy adopted by the political parties. The national policy equally emphasizes prevention, rehabilitation and anti-discrimination law, less emphasizing individual support and accessibility measures.

The Government has supported the following actions conveying the message of full participation: The Standard Rules were translated into Polish and disseminated; The principles of co-operation between the Government and NGOs were approved by the Government and disseminated; Propagation in mass-media, mainly in the press (by co-financing from the State Rehabilitation fund), the publication of articles on the issues related to full participation of disabled persons.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special and general legislation. Judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of disabled persons include due process (legal remedy through courts). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman and a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to all categories of persons with disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. As regards the right of access to court-of-law the Government states that in the case of incapacitated persons it applies only through the statutory representative or the curator assigned by court. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting them (in trade unions and unions of employers hiring disabled persons, in decisions in form of agreement concluded between NGOs and the Government and in form of principles of co-operation between the Government and NGOs).

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules but the Law on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons has been approved by the Government and forwarded to the Parliament.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the build environment establishing national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor

environment, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities available for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work, recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles, according to the Government, are: attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors. There is a disability awareness component in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language for deaf people, is used as the first language in the education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available only for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

In the national umbrella organization about 100 NGOs representing persons with all kinds of disabilities are included. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. The new draft of the Law on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons is however considering the issue. Disability organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national and local levels. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing and new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in Government, legislature, judiciary and to a great extent in political parties and NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations in Poland have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of disabled persons, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

All answers to the questions in this section relate to records in the draft "Law on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled People" approved by the Government and forwarded to the parliament in February 1996.

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy.

The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of: Finance, Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Housing, Education, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs, and from the private sector. The Government expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development, and to perform other tasks, such as giving opinions and participating in creation of legislation and Governmental programmes.

According to the Government the Standard Rules more effectively help to create the policy and activity in favour of persons with disabilities.

Romania

Ministry unspecified (14 march 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Romania is expressed in law. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: rehabilitation, prevention, individual support, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

The Government has conveyed the message of full participation since the adoption of the Rules through mass-media, working meetings, seminars etc.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected both by special and by general legislation. There are no judicial mechanisms available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Non-judicial mechanisms available for that purpose include: a Government body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, improving accessibility in housing, financial incentives for accessibility measures, installing special lighting for visually impaired, and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities include: free urban and interurban transport on buses and trains and available for the following purposes: medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. According to the Government, the most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors, lack of knowledge, research and information. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following

services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The organizations of physically handicapped persons and the organizations of mentally handicapped are represented in the national umbrella organization. The Government states that legal provisions exist mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Such Consultations take place at both the national, regional and local level. The Government gives both financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations. Disabled persons do not at all participate in Governments, legislature, judiciary, political parties. They do, however, to a great extent participate in NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations in Romania have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the State Secretariat for Handicapped Persons. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, other NGOs, the private sector and local administration. The committee is expected to participate in policy development and also to improve accessibility and special protection. According to the Government the establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, legislation, integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and promotion of public awareness.

It is too early to make an evaluation whether the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Russian Federation

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (30 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in the Russian Federation is expressed in law. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: anti-discrimination law, rehabilitation, prevention, individual support and accessibility measures.

Since the adoption of the rules the Government has taken the following actions in order to convey the message of full participation: A state report on the status of persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation has been published, and thematic overviews of their status are in the course of preparation. Radio and television programmes dealing with the

problems of disability are broadcast on a regular basis. Literature for persons with disabilities and of problems of disability are being published, including material in Braille. Gramophone records, tapes and other audio materials, films and videos are produced for persons with disabilities. The International Day of Disabled Persons is celebrated annually.

Legislation

The legislation of the Russian Federation on the social protection of persons with disabilities consists of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federal Law on the social protection of persons with disabilities and also the laws and other normative legislative instruments for subjects of the Russian Federation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). The non-judicial mechanism includes a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities but with individual exceptions.

The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

The following laws concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

- The decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 22 December 1993, No. 2254, on measures of state support for the activity of all-Russian associations of persons with disabilities.
- The Federal Law on social services for older citizens and citizens with disabilities of 2 August 1995, No. 122.
- The Federal Law on social protection for persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation of 24 November 1995, No. 181.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment, defined by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 2 October 1992 on measures to create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities, and strengthened by article 15 of the Federal Law on social protection of persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation, into effect on 24 November 1995. Monitoring compliance with the accessibility requirements is the responsibility of the territorial organizations of the State Architectural and Construction Inspectorate of the Russian Federation. Each of the territories of the Russian Federation draws up its own specific programme for the creation of a living environment, accessible to persons with disabilities; the programme provides measures to vehicle parking spaces, installation of the necessary lifts, ensuring the accessibility of residential and public buildings and facilities, and other measures, including the provision of specially adapted automobiles. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. In many towns in the country persons with disabilities travel on the urban public transport free of charge. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors, and for the northern part of the country geographical and climatic factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication

between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization for the organizations of persons with disabilities. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Disability organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national, regional and local level. The Government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in legislature, judicial authorities and in political parties. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body.

Slovenia

Transmitted by the Embassy in Stockholm (7 May 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Slovenia is expressed: in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: rehabilitation, prevention, individual support, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has initiated and supported information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). There are no administrative and other non-judicial bodies available for that purpose.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that new buildings (schools, hospitals, clinics etc.) are made accessible, old buildings being slowly adapted. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the Government: marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, installing special lighting for visually impaired. Special transport arrangements include free transport for pre-school education and primary education being available for medical treatment, education (partly), work (partly). When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity, lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for any purpose, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. In addition there are TV programmes for deaf people, video cassettes with subscriptions and translation to sign language.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities, 11 national organizations being represented. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy development and to work with Governmental institutions. Disability organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judiciary and political parties, but to a great extent in Government, legislature and NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of disabled people, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body.

On the basis of the Standard Rules, the Government has created a national report for the Parliament.

Ministry unspecified (8 July 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Turkmenistan is expressed in law. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: individual support, accessibility measures, rehabilitation, prevention, anti-discrimination law.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities are due process (legal remedy through the courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

New legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, land, sea, air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility: ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, and providing financial incentives for accessibility measures when building or renovating housing. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. Technical factors are the most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization where all the organizations of persons with disabilities are being represented. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national and local level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities, political parties and NGOs. The organizations have the role to mobilize persons with disabilities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body.

Ukraine

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (15 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Ukraine is expressed in law, in orders of the President, in statements of the Parliament and in state programmes.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has supported information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. Many new laws have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules, laws as "On the status of veterans of wars and guarantees of their social protection", "On the basic principles of the social protection of labour veterans and other aged people in Ukraine".

Accessibility

The Scientific Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences and other specialized institutions develop different facilities, systems and equipment to ensure access of persons with disabilities to information and communication.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The "Council on Disabilities" is the national co-ordinating committee.

Uzbekistan

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (1 July 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, anti-discrimination law.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). The administrative and other non-judicial bodies for that purpose include a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to the right to education and the right to parenthood/family. The following benefits are

guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the build environment. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of planning and design capacity, lack of knowledge, and research and information.

Sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is literature in Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. The organizations in Uzbekistan have the role to mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Prime Minister's Office. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has lead to improved co-ordination of measures/programmes. The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Latin America And The Caribbean

Barbados

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (11 June 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council, and in policy adopted

by political parties. The emphasis in this policy is on prevention, and rehabilitation.

Accessibility

Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, and lack of enforcement mechanisms.

Sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people, is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities and political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations in Barbados have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Community Development and Labour. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, of Education, and of organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development. It is too early for an assessment about the effects from the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Bolivia

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (25 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Bolivia is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis is on prevention and rehabilitation.

Since the adoption of the rules the Government has not done anything to convey the

message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special and general legislation.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education and employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The only benefit guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities is health and medical care.

The Disabled Persons Act has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules (15 December 1995).

Accessibility

There are no laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment. No entity is specifically responsible, but the Disabled Persons Act calls for the elimination of architectural barriers. The only measure promoted is the levelling off pavements, in three cities in central areas only. There is no special transport. The most difficult obstacle when planning to build accessible environments is the lack of knowledge, research and information. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people, used as the first language in education of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is a small number of literature in Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization (the Bolivian Confederation of Persons with Disabilities) where all the organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. There are provisions in the Disabled Persons Act (1995) mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national, regional and local level. The Government gives organizational support for institution-building, training and other activities to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities, political parties and NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to mobilize persons with disabilities and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Human Development. The committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Human Development, the National Secretariat of Health, the National Secretariat of Education, the Ministry of labour and Occupational Development, the Bolivian Confederation of Persons with Disabilities and of NGOs.

Chile

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (8 April 1996)

General policy

There is no officially recognized policy. The emphasis of this policy - in descending scale - is on prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law, individual support.

The Government has initiated and supported information campaigns at the national level through mass media, posters, etc., in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. There is no judicial mechanism to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. According to the Government the only mechanism available for that purpose is the local police. Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include a special arbitration/conciliation body.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

The law of 5 January 1994, "Ley de Integracion Social de las Personas con Discapacidad (Ley 19.284)" has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility in the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea, air transportation, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives for accessibility measures when building or renovating housing tax exemptions when importing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport systems for persons with disabilities include reduced prices in public transport and offered for whatever purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. No disability awareness component is incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people nor recognized as the main means of

communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible such as computer systems used by visually impaired persons. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, and sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place both at the national and regional levels. No support is given by the Government to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary and political parties but to a very great extent in NGOs. The organizations in Chile have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of "Planning and Co-operation". The co-ordinating committee includes representatives from many Ministries, from the organizations of persons with disabilities, from other NGOs, and from the private sector. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development, and to administer the economic resources intended for handicap policy. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking due to earlier non-existing disability policy.

Colombia

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (21 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Colombia is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, and in guidelines adopted by the national disability council. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures and prevention. There is no emphasis on anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has conveyed the message of full participation by means of a national plan concerning prevention and awareness raising, 1994-1998. The plan has been incorporated in the Law 188 of 1994.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts) while the non-judicial mechanism includes an Ombudsman.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security.

No new legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules but there a law is in the process of being enacted.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The only measure promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment is financial incentives for accessibility measures when building and renovating housing. There is no special transport system. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are attitudinal factors, lack of knowledge, research and information, and lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available for major events.

Organizations for persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all existing organizations are represented. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy development and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations of disabled people are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. No support is given to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judicial authorities and political parties, to some extent in Government and legislature and to a great extent in NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Health and to the vice President. The committee includes representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, other NGOs, representatives from the academic sector etc. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment about the effects from the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy in the sense that the Rules provide a framework for a more comprehensive disability policy.

Ecuador

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (26 February 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Ecuador is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, and in guidelines adopted by a national disability council. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has conveyed the message of full participation through different publications and information campaigns.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected both by special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts), a Governmental body (administrative) also being available for the same purpose.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and med

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility in the build environment that establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, ensuring access to public places, and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transports exist both at the national and municipal level, available for the purpose of education and work. Special transport is not offered for medical treatment and recreational purpose. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors, geographical and climatic factors, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component is not incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people, nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf people and others. There are no Government measures for

encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation being available only for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities where the federations of the blind, and the deaf, the physically and intellectually disabled are represented. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy development and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties but to some extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, and contribute to public awareness. The organizations do not, however, provide services, or promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Prime Minister's office. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education, Culture, representatives from the organizations of persons with disabilities, from the NGOs, and from the National Institute of Children and Family. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as planning, co-ordinating actions in the private as well as in the public sector. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes etc., in the disability field, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The Rules have provided a frame of reference in formulating the policy.

Honduras

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (25 June 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Honduras is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by a national disability council. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, individual support, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the rules the Government has not done anything to convey the

message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education and employment. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling and employment.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are no laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment. No measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. There is no special transport. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. There are no Government measures for encouraging media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities. There are Government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, and sign language interpretation for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. There are no Government measures mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the regional and local levels. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities and in political parties but to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Labour. The committee includes representatives from the NGOs and the private sector. It does not include representatives from the various Ministries and from the organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy-development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of

measures/programmes in the disability field, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Mexico

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (1 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Mexico is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in guidelines adopted by a national disability council.

Since the adoption of the rules the Government has taken action in order to convey the message of full participation. The Mexican Social Security Institute conducted a television campaign in 1995 to promote respect and equal opportunity for persons with disabilities. As part of that campaign, 30-second promotional spots in prime time were broadcast on the commercial television channel with the largest number of viewers in the country. The weekly 30-minute programme entitled "Disability for a World without Barriers" was broadcast on the same channel. The first International Congress, entitled "Disability in the Year 2000", was held under the slogan "Make Room: The World is also Ours". On various commercial radio stations, the Department of Communications and Transport conducts, national awareness campaigns for drivers, on the topics of accident prevention and disability. The Consumer Defence Advocate carries out television and radio campaigns dealing with disability.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The Political Constitution of Mexico provides specific guarantees and rights with regard to equal opportunities and the establishment of conditions for individual, family and community development. The Political Constitution for example, establishes the right to free, compulsory and secular basic education; the right to health protection; the right to equality between men and women; the right to justice and work; the right for families to decent housing; and the protection of minors. Regulatory acts forming a complex system of norms have been promulgated; nonetheless, there is still a gap between law and reality, and the system must be constantly updated and adjusted. In recent years, the specific legal framework guaranteeing respect for and the dignity of persons with disabilities has been established and altered by amending discriminatory articles of the Civil Code as much as the General Act on Education regarding the inclusion of minors in the regular school system, as well as other federal acts on specific issues relating to persons with disabilities, such as the Act on the Encouragement and promotion of Sport, the Consumer Protection Act, the General Act on Human Settlements, the Customs Act and the Act on Procurement and Public Works. In addition, local acts on social integration have been promulgated in the Federal District and in 10 states, and similar acts are being promulgated in eight other states. The judicial mechanisms adopted in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities include: due process (legal remedy through the courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. The Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic has begun

to establish agencies of the Federal Prosecutor's Office specialising in persons with mental disabilities; to date, two agencies have been established. The Office of the Government Procurator of the Federal District operates three agencies of the Federal Prosecutor's Office, specialising in the problems of minors, persons with disabilities and kidnapping.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

There are several new acts which have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment.

- An official Mexican regulation establishes the architectural requirements for providing persons with disabilities with access to medical establishments under the National Health System and facilitating their mobility during their stay.
- Support for the Physically Disabled, Blind and Mute, a document prepared by the Mexican Social Security Institute, establishes legal criteria and architectural and engineering guidelines for adapting space in order to make it accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Design criteria. Architectural Elements to Assist Persons with Disabilities, prepared by the Insurance and Social Services Institute for State workers, a document containing regulations on surface area, operation, environment control, equipment, signs and various architectural details of the Institute.
- Adaptation of INFONAVIT Housing for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly, a document prepared by the Institute of the National Fund for Worker Housing, which sets the standards for such housing.
- There are also various regulations on this subject in various states and towns of Mexico.

These laws and regulations establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purposes. A number of health, social welfare, education and work centres provide free transport to persons with disabilities enabling them to receive the services to which they are entitled. In addition, in a number of Mexican towns, there are agreements with transport enterprises to charge special prices for their services to persons with disabilities. Some public transport enterprises operating as concessions have adapted vehicles in order to facilitate for persons with a disability their use. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, geographical and climatic factors and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. However, information on disabilities is being incorporated into training programmes for architects and other related professions.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is not used as the first language in education of deaf people nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The National Council for Culture and the Arts (CONACULTA) promotes the use of works in Braille and recorded books in library collections. Various museums are also taking measures to facilitate the access of persons with handicaps. In its exhibitions, the National Museum of Art makes materials in Braille and large print and paintings in relief available to the sight-impaired. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national, regional and local level. The Government gives organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the President of the Republic. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of Persons with Disabilities, of NGOs and from the private sector. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as co-ordination of the activities carried out by its members at all three levels of Government, and follow-up of the activities and evaluation of the results. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved co-ordination of public awareness. The National Programme for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities and their inclusion in the Development Process is the result of the work carried out by the National Co-ordination Commission. On the basis of various analyses, the Commission drafted proposals by adapting the recommendations contained in the Standard Rules, for implementation in response to the interests of groups of persons with disabilities.

Peru

Transmitted by the Embassy in Stockholm (25 April 1996)

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts) while the non-judicial mechanism for that purpose is a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority, local Governments and the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places. There is no special transport system for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are attitudinal factors, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public communication to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature on tape, sign language interpretation being available for major events, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization "La Federation National Impedidos" where all organizations of disabled persons are represented. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Disabled persons' organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the local level. The Government gives organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislature, judicial authorities and political parties, to some extent in Government and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations in Peru have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee "Congreso Nacional para la Integracion del Impedido" is reporting to the Ministry of Health and to the Council of Ministers. The committee include representatives of the Ministries of Health and Employment, and from the private sector. The Government expects co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development but it is expected to perform other tasks e.g. supervisory function. It is too early for an assessment about the effects from the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Saint Christopher and Nevis

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (7 May 1996)

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy in Saint Christopher and Nevis.

The Government states having conveyed the message of full participation and equality through provision of work for persons with disabilities.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. Non-judicial mechanisms to protect the rights of persons with disabilities include independent expert bodies.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, political rights, right to privacy, property rights. No benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities.

Accessibility

No measures have been promoted by the Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. Special transport is available only for the purpose of education and recreation. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people and is used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The only service provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization for organizations of persons with disabilities. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the local level. The Government gives financial support to existing and new organizations. Persons with disabilities do not at all participate in Government and legislature but, to a very limited extent in judiciary, political parties and NGOs. The role disabled persons organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (15 April 1996)

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts).

The general legislation applies to persons with disabilities only with respect to: employment and access to court-of-law. No benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

Levelling off pavements is the only measure promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment is:. Special transports include bus free of charge for children to commute to school. Wen planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors and lack of legislation and regulations. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: sign language interpretation available for any purpose, and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

The adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Saint Lucia

Ministry unspecified (30 may 1996)

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts), administrative and other non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities only with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. Disabled drivers though, are allowed to some duty free concession, on a case by case basis. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: lack of legislation and regulations, lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people and is also used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization representing all disability groups. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial support to organizations. Disabled people participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations in Saint Lucia have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Congo

Ministry unspecified (10 June 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Congo is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on anti-discrimination law, rehabilitation, individual support, prevention, accessibility measures.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts).

The general legislation applies to all persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court of law, right to privacy, property rights. The following rights are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, and lack of enforcement mechanisms.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the first language in the education of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media to make their services accessible but no Government measures to encourage other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is sign language interpretation for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the

representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Their views are taken into account at both national, regional and local level. The Government gives financial and logistic support to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislature and judicial authorities, to some extent in Government and to a great extent in political parties and NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, promote/organize income generating activities.

According to the Government, the adoption of the Standard Rules has, led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Eritrea

Ministry unspecified (17 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Eritrea is expressed in guidelines adopted by the National Disability Council and in policy adopted by political parties. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law, individual support.

The Government has conveyed the message of full participation on the occasions of national and regional conferences organized to popularise the CBR programme of disabled persons in Eritrea.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. A Governmental body (administrative) aims at protecting of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The general legislation applies to all categories of persons with disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

There are no laws, regulations and/or guidelines ensuring accessibility in the build environment. No measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most

difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of legislation and regulations, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille, news magazines on tape/Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in NGOs and to a great extent in Government, legislature, judiciary and political parties. The disabled persons' organizations in Eritrea have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy and to measures being taken to adapt the policy to the Standard Rules.

Ghana

Department of Social Welfare (20 February 1996)

General policy

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. There are judicial mechanisms available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. This includes due process (legal remedy through courts). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman and a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the

Standard Rules.

Accessibility

Persons with disabilities are entitled to free public transport (road and rail). Special transport is without restriction available for all purposes. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are the following: attitudinal, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, and lack of enforcement mechanisms.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language for deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information services to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The following organizations are represented in the national umbrella organization: the Ghana Association of the Blind; the Ghana National Association of the Deaf; the Ghana National Society of the Physically Disabled. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, judiciary and political parties, to some extent in legislature and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Madagascar

Ministry of Social Affairs (18 June 1996)

General policy

A disability policy is under the process of elaboration.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has conveyed the message of full participation by way of elaborating a national disability policy and integrating questions concerning persons with disabilities in the national programme etc.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due procedure (legal remedy through courts), while the non-judicial is a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to

education, employment, the rights to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights. General legislation does not apply with respect to access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

New legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are no laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment. No measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. There is no special transport system for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors, lack of knowledge, research and information, and lack of user participation. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people. It is also used as the first language in education of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation available for any purpose, and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national, regional and local level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities, political parties but to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to "Le Secretariat d'Etat". The committee includes representatives of several Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy, the issue of disability being integrated in the national programme of the population.

Malawi

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (21 May 1996)

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy in Malawi, but the Standard Rules are in the process of being adopted by the Government.

Since the adoption of the Rules a National Co-ordinating Committee on Disability Issues was formed. The committee being interministerial/multi-sectoral, aims at influencing the implementation of all the Rules.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative) and a Law Commissioner. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: training, rehabilitation and counselling. Other benefits such as health and medical care, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting themselves are not guaranteed by law.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are no laws, regulations and/or guidelines ensuring accessibility of the build environment. No measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. There are no special transport arrangements. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language in the education of deaf people, and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, and sign language interpretation available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are

being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities, political parties and NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations in Malawi have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Welfare. The committee includes representatives of all Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment of the effects from the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy and to amending of the Handicapped Persons Act.

Namibia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (6 March 1996)

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. There are no judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The only mechanism available is an Ombudsman for all citizens.

None of the rights and benefits enlisted in the questionnaire are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities. No new legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

There are no laws, regulations and/or guidelines ensuring accessibility in the build environment. There is no special transport. There is no disability awareness component in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the first language in education of deaf people. Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible are at the stage of planning. No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization, organizations of people with mental disabilities not being represented. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a

disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at both national, regional and local level. The only support given to organizations is the financing by the Government for their accommodation and meals when attending meetings organized by the Government. Persons with disabilities do not at all participate in Government, legislature and political parties. They participate to a very limited extent in judiciary and NGOs. The organizations in Namibia have the role to: mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, contribute to public awareness and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee (the Technical Working Committee), reporting to the Ministry of lands Resettlement and Rehabilitation. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Health and social affairs, Employment, Education, Culture, from organizations of persons with disabilities, from other NGOs, and of the private sector. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. Improved legislation is the effect of the committee.

According to the Government the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Nigeria

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (25 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Nigeria is expressed in law. There is also a Government ordinance from 1993 for the social protection of persons with disabilities. The emphasis is on prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government conveyed the message of full participation has by way of information campaigns.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. Judicial mechanisms to protect the rights of persons with disabilities include due process (legal remedy through courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transportation, and housing are made accessible. There is no responsible body for observing accessibility in the build environment. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets. There is no special transport system. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille, and sign language interpretation available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at national, regional and local level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature and judicial authorities but to a great extent in political parties and NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body in Nigeria.

South Africa

Ministry in the Office of the President (13 March 1996)

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy yet, but by October 1996 a discussion document like a policy was adopted by the Government. The policy proposals emphasize both prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination.

Since the adoption of the Rules no campaign has been initiated by the Government to convey the message of full participation but the Government has the intention to initiate such a campaign.

Legislation

At present there is no legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. However, the Government is investigating a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation. In addition, the disability assembly made a submission to the Constitutional Assembly, a body charged with the new Constitution for the country, to entrench clauses in the new Constitution on equality in relation to disability. A proposal for a Commission on Disability Equality and for a Public Protector and Human Rights Commission in South Africa also regards the judicial/non-judicial mechanisms to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Few benefits are guaranteed by law in South Africa. Medical care exists in towns and big cities. Most rural areas have poor or no facilities. Income is guaranteed by means of a disability grant, subject to means test.

No legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation are made accessible. No responsible body exists for observing accessibility in the build environment. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, ensuring access to public places. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, lack of knowledge research and information, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, neither used as the first language in education of deaf people nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: Literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation, available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. No support is given by the Government to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, political parties and NGOs. The disabled persons' organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, contribute to public awareness, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry in the Office of the

President. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Transport, Housing, Education, Planning, and representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities, and from other NGOs. The Government expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Tanzania

Ministry of Community Development, Women Affairs and Children (12 June 1996)

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy in Tanzania.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has facilitated the formation of an association addressing the needs and demands of persons with disabilities.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities only with respect to the right to parenthood/family. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training rehabilitation and counselling, and independent living.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority, local Governments and the organizers/providers of services. The only measure promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment is ensuring access to public places. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is not used as the first language in education of deaf people, and not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for

encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The only service provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is literature in Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where the following organizations are represented: the Tanzania Association of the Deaf, the Tanzania League of the Blind, the Albino Association, the Tanzania Society for Palsy and Mental Retardation. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislature, to some extent in Government, judicial authorities, and political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Labour and Youth. The committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, and from organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government does not expect the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development or to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, and more effective use of resources.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy "because most of the things need to be reconsidered and are necessary to be addressed by the policy".

Zambia

Council for the Handicapped (5 February 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Zambia is expressed in law, and in guidelines adopted by a national disability council. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: individual support, rehabilitation, prevention.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has not done anything in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with

disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). Administrative and other non-judicial mechanisms include a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education and employment. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are no laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment. No measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. There is no special transport. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, and sign language interpretation available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, and of other NGOs. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks e.g. advise the Government on disability issues. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes etc. in the disability field, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy, however not to a great extent.

South, East Asia And The Pacific

Cambodia

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (29 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed: in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in policy adopted by political parties, and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law, rehabilitation, individual support.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has conveyed the message of full participation, through the inspections made by the Ministry of Social Affairs in the provinces and municipalities.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. There is a Governmental body (administrative) for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: employment, political rights, right to privacy. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and socio-psychological assistance, financial security, employment.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, i.e. schools, hospitals, clinics, community centres, rehabilitation centres, theatres etc., are made accessible. No responsible body exists for observing accessibility in the build environment. No measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. There is no special transport system. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions, and lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. The Government has taken measures for encouraging media to make their information services accessible, but there are no measures to make other forms of public information services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between

persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille, and news magazines on tape/Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. All the associations/organizations of persons with disabilities are represented in the umbrella. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. No support is given by the Government to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government and political parties but to a great extent in NGOs. They do not at all participate in legislature and judiciary. The disabled persons' organizations in Cambodia have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, and other NGOs. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field, and more effective use of resources.

China

China Disabled Persons Federation (15 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in China is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council, in policy adopted by political parties, and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on anti-discrimination law, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, individual support.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has taken the following actions to convey the message of full participation: Dissemination of the Rules; Donation of 10,000 USD each year in support of the Special Rapporteur; Integration of the Rules into the National Working Programme; Launching the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons; and Promotion of the Rules in mass media.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities are: due process (legal remedy through courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Administrative and other

non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman, a Governmental body (administrative) and a special arbitration/conciliation body.

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

Since the adoption of the Rules, Regulations on Education of Disabled Persons and Local Laws in 29 provinces were enacted.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by national authority, local Governments and disabled persons' organizations. The following measures have been promoted by the Government to facilitate accessibility: levelling off pavements, ensuring access to public places, and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements include the following: urban public transport is free for the blind; buses are provided for disabled persons available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. In addition, public transportation is free for the blind, wherever they are traveling. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, geographical and climatic factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people and is used as the first language in education of deaf people. Furthermore the Government is active for promoting a unified Chinese sign language. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following measures are provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation, and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all associations of all disability groups are represented, such as the blind, the deaf, the physically, mentally, and psychologically disabled. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and NGOs. The organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities. In addition, the organizations represent and serve disabled persons, also taking the administrative responsibility concerning disability issues.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the State Council. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, and from other NGOs. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development but it is not expected to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The Standard Rules are in line with the national disability policy. The adoption of the Rules strengthen the national legislation and promote the implementation of the policies.

Republic of Korea

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (28 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in the Republic of Korea is expressed in manifold ways: in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government, in guidelines adopted by a National disability Council and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law, individual support, accessibility measures.

Since the adoption of the rules the Government has done the following in order to convey the message of full participation: In April 1995 "Theme Song contest" was held for the promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons; In December 1995 a survey was carried out on the situation of disabled persons; In February 1996 "Voice of Love" was established, a radio broadcasting station for the disabled persons; Since 1994 a rehabilitation information centre is being managed.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. No judicial mechanisms have been adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Other non-judicial mechanisms include a Governmental body (administrative) protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

The general legislation applies to all categories of disabled persons with respect to: education and employment. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has adopted the "Rules on the Implementation Standards of Barrier Free Environments and Facilities for Persons with disabilities"

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea, air transportation, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority, local Governments and disability related NGOs. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, improving accessibility in housing. Special transport arrangements include: discharge of tax on vehicles for persons with disabilities, discount of train and subway fares, developing various measures to help reduce the economic hardships on persons with disabilities and their families. Special transport is available for: medical treatment, education, work. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people. It is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. This occurs at the national level. The Government supports the organizations financially. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in legislature, judiciary and political parties and to a great extent in Government and NGOs. The organizations in the Republic of Korea have the role to: advocate rights, mobilize persons with disabilities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Health and Welfare. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education, and from the organizations of persons with disabilities and professionals. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. The committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/ programmes, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, and improved promotion of public awareness.

Since their adoption in the Republic of Korea the Standard Rules have been reflected in the relevant policy for the persons with disabilities.

the Maldives

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (22 April 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in the Maldives is expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law, individual support.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has taken measures to initiate and support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts), while non-judicial mechanisms include a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to all different categories of persons with disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority and the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the Government to facilitate accessibility of the build environment: levelling off pavements, access to public places. There is no special transport. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are economic/budgetary factors and technical factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities but no measures to make other forms of public information services accessible for persons with disabilities.

No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The "Society for the Handicapped" is the national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government gives organizational/logistic support to organizations.

Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations in the Maldives have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee which is reporting to the Ministry of Health and Welfare. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, and from the private sector. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as health education on prevention, promotion, rehabilitation. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, a better dialogue, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

According to the Government the adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Pakistan

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (15 May 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Pakistan is expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on prevention, accessibility measures, rehabilitation, individual support, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Government has conveyed the message of full participation through information campaigns.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. There is no judicial mechanism to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Non-judicial bodies include a Governmental body (administrative).

The general legislation applies to persons with disabilities with respect to employment only. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are guidelines ensuring accessibility of the build environment requiring that schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, the outdoor environment, land, sea, air transportation are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by a national authority

and local Governments. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport is available for the purpose of education only. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following measures are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation, available only for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all organizations of persons with disabilities are represented. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judicial authorities and NGOs. The organizations have the role to identify needs and priorities, and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Prime Minister's office. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Justice, Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Planning, and from organizations of persons with disabilities. The committee is expected to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning and more effective use of resources.

Philippines

Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York (29 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in the Philippines is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in guidelines adopted by the national disability council. The national disability policy very strongly emphasizes prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility and anti-discrimination whereas the emphasis on individual support is weaker.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has supported the following information campaigns, conveying the message of full participation: Distribution of the Rules to Government and non-Government organizations; Discussion during meetings/consultation with self-help groups of persons with disabilities.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). There is also a Governmental body (administrative) for the same purpose.

The general legislation applies to all categories of persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment, and participation in decisions affecting them.

No new legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules, although local ordinances affecting persons with disabilities have been issued.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations ensuring accessibility in the build environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea and air transportation are made accessible. A national authority, local Governments and the constructor review the operation of accessibility standards. The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places. Special transport arrangements include discounted fare programme for persons with disabilities. Discounted fare is available in any kind of travel. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of enforcement mechanisms. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people, is used as the first language in education of deaf people, and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. There is a co-ordination with NGO's providing communication services to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation, available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations with organizations take place at the national, regional and local levels. The Government gives a limited financial support and technical assistance to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in judiciary and political parties and to a great extent in Government, legislature and NGOs.

The organizations in Philippines have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is attached to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, and other NGOs. The Government expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as co-ordination, monitoring and advocacy of disability matters. According to the Government the establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation and integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The Philippines always as stated by the Government, been guided by the UN world programmes of Action and more recently by the Agenda for Action of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. Similarly, the Standard Rules have further strengthened the development of programmes for Filipinos with disabilities.

Sri Lanka

Permanet Mission (27 March 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Sri Lanka is expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government, and in guidelines adopted by the national disability council. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on: rehabilitation, prevention, anti-discrimination law, individual support, accessibility measures.

The Government has conveyed the message of full participation, through work shops and mass media campaigns.

Legislation

A draft special legislation will be submitted to the Parliament shortly. The judicial mechanism which has been adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). There are no administrative or other non-judicial bodies for that purpose.

General legislation does not apply to persons with disabilities. There are no benefits guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities. The legislation is under preparation.

No new legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are no laws, regulations and/or guidelines ensuring accessibility in the build

environment. No measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. When planning to build accessible environments the most difficult obstacles are: attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is used as the first language in education of deaf people, and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf people and others. There are Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation, available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The organizations of the blind and of the physically disabled are represented in the national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared and their views are being considered at national level. The Government supports existing or new organizations financially. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislature, judiciary, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The organizations have the role to: advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the ministry of Health and Social Services. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of: Finance, Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education, Planning, and from organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, e.g. the preparation of action plans. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field, and improved promotion of public awareness.

According to the Government the adoption of the Standard rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Thailand

Transmitted by the Embassy in Stockholm (24 May 1996)

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Thailand is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis - in descending scale - is on prevention,

rehabilitation, accessibility measures, individual support, anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the Government has conveyed the message of full participation through mass media; spot on TV, posters, brochures etc.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation specifically dealing with disability matters, and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts).

The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court of law, right to privacy, property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, and participation in decisions affecting them.

According to the Government, the "Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act B.E. 2534 (A.D. 1991)" has been, enacted after the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules ensuring accessibility of the build environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the build environment is observed by the "Sub-committee for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons on Accessibility". The following measures have been promoted by the Government in order to facilitate accessibility in the build environment: marking parking areas, financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. Attitudinal factors are the only obstacles referred to by the Government, when planning to build accessible environments. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. It is neither used as the first language in education of deaf people, nor recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no Government measures for encouraging media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation, available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. Legal provisions mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions. Organizations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations take place at the national level. The Government financially supports existing or new organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, judicial authorities and political parties but to a great extent in legislature and NGOs. The organizations have the role to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and

priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Housing, and representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities, and from other NGOs. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks such as recommend, consult, and encourage policy and activities concerning the rehabilitation and development of disabled people. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had effects such as improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has confirmed that the Thai disability policy is on the right track.

Part III

Survey of NGO Replies

Introduction

This part of the report analyses the replies to the questionnaire sent to 600 NGO's within the disability field. 163 NGO's responded. No comparison between the views of NGO's and of governments is made in this part.

The distribution of NGO's, according to regions, is as follows:

Table A Regions

Regions	Frequency	Valid Percent
South, East Asia and the Pacific	17	10,4
Industrialized countries	46	28,2
Latin America and the Caribbean	20	12,3
Middle East and North Africa	10	6,1
Sub-Saharan Africa	34	20,9
Countries in transition	36	22,1
Total	163	100,0

The distribution of NGO's, according to the international organization to which they belong, is as follows:

Table B Organization type

Organization type	Frequency	Valid Percent
DPI	33	20,2
ILSMH	46	28,2
RI	15	9,2
WBU	33	20,2
WFD	31	19,0
WFPU	2	1,2
Other	3	1,8
Total	163	100,0

General Policy

Table 1 (Question No.1)

Number of NGO's having an officially recognized disability policy expressed in:

Disability policy expressed in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting having an officially recognized policy	130	85,5
Reporting not having an officially recognized policy	22	14,5
Law	93	61,2
Guidelines adopted by the Government	80	52,6
Guidelines adopted by a disability council	64	42,1
Policy adopted by political parties	33	21,7
Policy adopted by NGO's	66	43,4

Total 152, No answer 11

As Table 1 shows the majority of the NGO's are reporting that there is an officially recognized disability policy and that the disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the government.

Table 2 (Question No. 2)

The emphasis of disability policy

Emphasis in national policy	Number of NGO's indicating respective emphasis				
	1	2	3	4	5
Prevention	26	20	28	20	13
Rehabilitation	49	42	16	10	2
Individual support	30	25	25	13	16
Accessibility measures	5	21	26	37	13
Anti-discrimination law	20	7	10	16	40

1 = very strong emphasis

5 = very weak emphasis

According to the NGO's the strongest emphasis is on rehabilitation while the weakest emphasis is on anti-discrimination law and accessibility measures.

Table 3 (Question No. 3)

Government action to convey the message of full participation

Conveying the message of full participation	Frequency	Valid Percent
NGO's reporting action	66	42,3
NGO's reporting no action	90	57,7

Total 156, No answer 7

As Table 3 shows, the majority of the organizations are reporting that the governments, since the adoption of the Rules, have not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns, conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

Table 4 (Question No. 4)

Types of legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities

Types of legislation	Frequency	Valid Percent
Only special legislation	37	23,6
Only general legislation	51	32,5
A combination of these two types	69	43,9

Total 157, No answer 6

As Table 4 shows, the most common type of legislation is the use of a combination of special and general legislation. The next common type of legislation is general legislation applicable to all citizens, the least common type being special legislation, specifically referring to disabled persons rights.

Table 5 (Question No. 5)

Mechanisms to protect citizenship rights

Judicial/no-judicial mechanisms	Frequency	Valid Percent
Due process	97	72,4
Recourse procedure	28	20,9
The Ombudsman	48	35,8
Governmental body (administrative)	73	54,5
Expert bodies	26	19,4
Arbitration/conciliation body	14	10,4

Total 134, No answer 29

As Table 5 shows the majority of the NGO's are reporting that mechanisms have been adopted to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. The most usual judicial mechanism adopted is legal remedy through the courts, the most usual non-judicial mechanism being a governmental body (administrative).

Table 6 (Question 6)

Civil and political rights of persons with disabilities

NGO's reporting that general legislation does not apply with respect to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Education	8	6,0
Employment	23	17,2
The right to marriage	50	37,3
The right to parenthood/family	54	40,3
Political rights	47	35,1
Access to court-of-law	34	25,4
Right to privacy	40	29,9
Property rights	51	38,1

Total 134, No answer 29

As Table 6 shows, a considerable number of NGO's are reporting that general legislation does not apply to persons with disabilities with respect to: the right to parenthood/family, the right to marriage and property rights. The general legislation applies in almost all countries with respect to the right of education.

Table 7 (Question No. 7)

Economic and social rights of persons with disabilities

NGO's reporting that the following benefits are not guaranteed by law: does not apply with respect to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Health/medical care	37	25,5
Rehabilitation	37	25,5
Financial security	63	43,4
Employment	78	53,8
Independent living	92	63,4
Participation in decisions affecting themselves	87	60,0

Total 145, No answer 18

According to the NGO's, the rights less often guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities are the following: independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves and the right to employment. The right which is most often guaranteed by law is the right to health and medical care.

Table 8 (Question No. 8)

New legislation concerning disability since the adoption of the Rules

Legislation on disability	Frequency	Valid Percent
NGO's reporting enactment of new legislation	54	36,5
NGO's reporting no enactment of new legislation	94	63,5

Total 148, No answer 15

As Table 8 shows, the majority of the NGO's are reporting that no new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Table 9 (Question No. 9)

Regulations to ensure accessibility in the built environment

NGO's reporting that:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Accessibility standards exist	99	67,3
Accessibility standards do not exist	48	32,7

Total 147, No answer 16

As Table 9 indicates, a considerable number of NGO's are reporting that no accessibility standards exist.

Table 10 (Question No. 10)

Accessibility of the built environment

NGO's reporting accessibility in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Public places	90	90,9
Outdoor environment	68	68,7
Transportation	49	49,5
Housing	54	54,5
Accessibility standards do not exist	48	32,7

Total 147, No answer 16

As Table 10 indicates, the majority of the NGO's are reporting that accessibility standards concerning public places exist, accessibility standards concerning means of public transportation existing to a lesser extent.

Table 11 (Question No. 11)

Supervision of the accessibility in the built environment

Accessibility in the build environment is observed by:	Frequency	Valid Percent
National authority	56	44,1
Local Governments	72	56,7
The constructor	22	17,3
The organizers/providers of the activities	15	11,8
No responsible body exists	27	21,3

Total 127, No answer 36

As Table 11 shows, 21% of the NGO's are reporting that no responsible body exists for observing accessibility in the build environment. The supervision is mostly done by a national authority and the local governments.

Table 12 (Question No. 12)

Measures to facilitate accessibility of the built environment

Government measures promoted:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Levelling off pavements	71	55,9
Marking parking areas	81	63,8
Installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets	66	52,0
Ensure accessibility in the public places	78	61,4
Improving accessibility in housing	47	37,0
Financial incentives/support for accessibility measures	40	31,5
Special lighting/contrast colours for visually impaired	22	17,3
Provision of specially adapted motor vehicles	59	46,5

Total 127, No answer 36

According to the NGO's, the following measures to facilitate accessibility in the build environment are the most frequently promoted: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas and ensuring accessibility in public places. The measure being least of all promoted is the special lighting/contrast colours for visually impaired.

Table 13 (Question No. 13)

Special transport system

Special transport is available for:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Medical treatment	79	85,9
Education	84	91,3
Work	71	77,2
Recreational purpose	75	81,5
No special transport system exists	56	37,6
Special transport exists	93	62,4

Total 148, No answer 15

Special transport is most often available for medical treatment and education. There are 56 NGO's out of 92 providing information on this issue, reporting that no special transport system exists.

Table 14 (Question No. 14)

Adaptation of the built environment

Obstacles reported by NGO's when building accessible environments:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Attitudinal factors	101	66,4
Economic/budgetary factors	119	78,3
Technical factors	32	21,1
Geographical and climatic factors	17	11,2
Lack of legislation and regulations	73	48,0
Lack of planning and design capacity	52	34,2
Lack of knowledge, research and information	64	42,1
Lack of user participation	49	32,2
Lack of co-operation from other organizations	53	34,9
Lack of enforcement mechanism	86	56,6

As Table 14 shows, the three main obstacles, reported by NGO's, when building accessible environments are the following: economic/budgetary factors, attitudinal factors and lack of enforcement mechanism.

Table 15 (Question No. 15)
Disability awareness component

Disability awareness in the training:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Countries having a disability awareness component	50	35,0
Countries not having a disability awareness component	93	65,0

Total 143, No answer 20

The majority of the NGO's are reporting that a disability awareness component is not incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Table 16 (Question No. 16)
Status of sign language

The status of sign language as reported by the NGO's:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Recognized as the official language	59	42,4
The first language in education	21	15,1
The main means of communication	19	13,7
No officially recognized status	40	28,8

Total 139, No answer 24

As Table 16 indicates, there are 40 NGO's out of 139 providing information on this issue, reporting that sign language has no officially recognized status, 59 NGO's though report that sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people.

Table 17 (Question No. 17)
Accessibility measures in media

Accessibility measures in media	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting accessibility measures	64	40,3
Reporting no accessibility measures	95	59,7

Total 159, No answer 4

As Table 17 shows,, the majority of the NGO's are reporting that there are no accessibility measures for encouraging media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities.

Table 18 (Question No. 18)
Accessibility measures in public information services

Public information services	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting accessibility measures in information	41	27,3
Reporting no accessibility measures in information	109	72,7

Total 150, No answer 13

The majority of the NGO's are also reporting that there are no government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible for persons with disabilities.

Table 19 (Question No. 19)
Access to information and communication

Services to facilitate information and communication	Frequency	Valid Percent
Literature in Braille/tape	111	73,0
News magazines on tape/Braille	72	47,4
Sign language interpretation for any purpose	45	29,6
Sign language interpretation for major events	43	28,3
Easy readers for persons with mental disabilities	32	21,1
None	27	17,8

Total 152, No answer 11

As Table 19 indicates, 18% of the NGO's report that no services at all are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others. The services most frequently provided is literature in Braille/tape, services such as sign language interpretation and easy readers for persons with disabilities being less often provided.

Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

Table 20 (Question No. 20)
National umbrella organization

National umbrella organization	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is an umbrella organization	114	72,2
There is no umbrella organization	44	27,8

Total 158, No answer 5

As Table 20 shows the majority of the NGO's are reporting that there is an umbrella organization for the organizations of persons with disabilities.

Table 21 (Question 21)
Participation in policy making

Participation in policy-making	Frequency	Valid Percent
NGO's reporting participation	63	40,4
NGO's reporting no participation	93	59,6

Total 156, No answer 7

As Table 21 shows, 60% of the NGO's report that there are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions.

Table 22 (Question 22)
Consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities

Organizations are consulted:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	18	11,6
Sometimes	71	45,8
Often	46	29,7
Always	20	12,9

Total 155, No answer 8

Table 22 shows that a majority of the organizations reports that consultations sometimes take place, 12% of the NGO's are reporting that, when preparing laws, regulations and/or guidelines with a disability aspect are being prepared, consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities never take place.

Table 23 (Question 23)

Level of consultations

Level of consultations	Frequency	Valid Percent
National	130	94,2
Regional	47	34,1
Local	59	42,8

Total 138, No answer 25

Table 23 shows that consultations, when this is the case most frequently take place at the national level.

Table 24 (Question 24)

Support to organizations of disabled people

Kind of support	Frequency	Valid Percent
Financial	105	73,4
Organizational/logistic	39	27,3
No support at all	24	16,8

Total 143, No answer 20

The majority of the NGO's are reporting that the government gives financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities. However, 24 NGO's out of 143 providing information on this issue which are reporting that no support at all is given to organizations of persons with disabilities.

Table 25 (Question 25)

Participation in political and public life

Areas of political and public life	Number of countries reporting participation		
	Limited	Some	Great
Government	107	14	12
Legislature	101	15	14
Judiciary	106	9	6
Political parties	89	23	15
NGO's	29	28	85

Table 25 shows that the majority of NGO's are reporting that persons with disabilities to a very limited extent participate in government, legislature, judicial authorities and political parties but to a great extent in NGO's.

Table 26 (Question 26)
The role of organizations

Areas organizations are involved	Frequency	Valid Percent
Advocating rights and improved services	147	91,9
Mobilize persons with disabilities	135	84,4
Identify needs and priorities	131	81,9
Participate in the planning, implementation etc.	96	60,0
Contribute to public awareness	147	91,9
Provide services	119	74,4
Promote/organize income generating activities	102	63,8

Total 160, No answer 3

Table 26 shows that organizations foremost are involved in advocating rights and improved services, contributing to public awareness and mobilizing persons with disabilities. Organizations report being least involved in the participating, in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities. Nonetheless, the rates are high in all areas concerning organization involvement implying that the NGO's apprehend that their role involves a wide range of tasks.

Co-ordination of Work

Table 27 (Question 27)
Co-ordinating committee

Co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a co-ordinating committee	108	68,4
There is no co-ordinating committee	50	31,6

Total 158, No answer 5

Table 27 shows that the majority of the organizations report the existence of a co-ordinating committee. 50 organizations out of 158 providing information on this issue reporting there being no co-ordinating committee.

Table 28 (Question 28)
Where the co-ordinating committee is reporting to

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
A particular Ministry	77	72,6
The Prime Minister's office	15	14,2
Other	14	13,2
There is no co-ordinating committee	50	31,6

Total 154, No answer 9

The authority, according to the NGO's, to which the co-ordinating committee usually is reporting is the Ministry of Social Affairs or another Ministry.

Table 29 (Question 29)
Representation in the co-ordinating committee

Representatives of:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Ministries	94	92,2
Organizations of persons with disabilities	87	85,3
Other NGO's	46	45,1
The private sector	25	24,5
There is no co-ordinating committee	50	31,6

Total 152, No answer 11

According to the NGO's, the co-ordinating committee usually includes representatives from Ministries and from organizations of persons with disabilities. Representatives from other NGO's and from the private sector are not so often included in the co-ordinating committee.

Table 30 (Question 30)
Participation in policy-development

Involvement of the co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Participation in policy development	90	87,4
No participation in policy-development	13	12,6
There is no co-ordinating committee	50	31,6

Total 153, No answer 10

Table 30 shows that 90 NGO's out of 103 providing information on this issue report that the co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in policy development.

Table 31 (Question 31)
Participation in performance of other tasks

Involvement of the co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting performance of other tasks	52	57,1
Reporting no performance of other tasks	39	42,9
There is no co-ordinating committee	50	31,6

Total 141, No answer 22

Only 52 NGO's out of 91 providing information on this issue report that the committee is expected to perform other tasks.

Table 32 (Question 32)
Effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee

Effects	Frequency	Valid Percent
Improved co-ordination of measures/programmes	54	56,3
Improved legislation	43	44,8
Improved integration of responsibility	37	38,5
Better dialogue in the disability field	57	59,4
More accurate planning	30	31,3
More effective use of resources	27	28,1
Improved promotion of public awareness	42	43,8
Too early for an assessment	30	31,3
There is no co-ordinating committee	50	31,6

Total 146, No answer 17

According to the NGO's, the establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, a better dialogue in the disability field and improved legislation. However, 30 NGO's out of 96 providing information on this issue report that it is too early for an assessment regarding the effects of the co-ordinating committee.

Table 33 (Question 33)
Effects of the adoption of the Standard Rules

The effects of the Standard Rules	Frequency	Valid Percent
NGO's reporting a rethinking	56	47,5
NGO's reporting no rethinking	56	47,5
Too early for an assessment	112	5,1

Total 118, No answer

Table 33 shows that 56 NGO's out of 118 providing information on this issue report that the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy, 56 out of 118 also reporting that the adoption has not lead to a rethinking.

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Annex I

Questionnaire

Introductory remarks

Most questions can be answered by marking the alternative which applies in your case. In a number of questions we also invite you to specify or to give details. The questions have as far as possible been grouped according to the Rule areas, although sometimes one question involves two Rules at once.

Definitions of terms

Throughout the questionnaire the following terms are used. In order to avoid misunderstanding I add definitions of the terms:

The term ACCESSIBLE includes, but is not limited to, physical areas in society, such as housing, buildings, public transport services, streets and other outdoor environments, also includes all facilities and information services. For instance a telecommunication system must be accessible to hearing, speech impaired, deaf and blind persons.

Quotations below are from the Standard Rules.

"The term DISABILITY summarizes a great number of different functional limitations occurring in any population in any country of the world. People may be disabled by physical, intellectual or sensory impairment, medical conditions or mental illness. Such impairments, conditions or illnesses may be permanent or transitory in nature."

"The term REHABILITATION refers to a process aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric and/or social functional levels, thus providing them with the tools to change their lives towards a higher level of independence."

"The term EQUALIZATION OF OPPORTUNITIES means the process through which the various systems of society and the environment, such as services, activities, information and documentation, are made available to all, particularly to persons with disabilities."

SECTION I

General Policy Questions

1. Is there an officially recognized disability policy in your country, and in what way is it expressed?

IF NO, PLEASE PASS TO QUESTION 3

(YOU CAN MARK MORE THAN ONE)

- Expressed in law
- Guidelines adopted by the Government
- Guidelines adopted by a National Disability Council or a similar body
- Policy adopted by political parties
- Policy adopted by Non-Governmental Organizations
- No officially recognized policy
- Other position. Please specify: _____

2. Where is the emphasis in this national policy?

RANK IN ORDER OF EMPHASIS (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) WHERE 1 INDICATES THE STRONGEST EMPHASIS:

- Prevention
- Rehabilitation
- Individual support
- Accessibility measures
- Anti-discrimination law

3. Since the adoption of the Standard Rules, has your Government done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation?

- No
- Yes

If yes, Please describe: _____ <

SECTION II

Rule 15. Legislation

"States have a responsibility to create the legal bases for measures to achieve the objectives of full participation and equality for persons with disabilities."

4. The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by:

- Special legislation to provide protection to persons with disabilities
- General legislation applicable to all citizens
- Combination of the above two types of legislation

5. Which institutional mechanism(s)/arrangement(s) have been adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities?

(YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)

Judicial mechanisms

- Due Process (legal remedy through the courts)
- Recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues
- Others _____

Administrative and other no-judicial bodies

- Ombudsman or similar functions
- Governmental body (administrative)
- Independent expert bodies
- Special arbitration/conciliation body
- Others _____

6. Does The general legislation applies to persons with different disabilities (e.g. mental disabilities) with respect to:

- Education
- Employment
- The right to marriage
- The right to parenthood/family
- Political rights (voting right/right to hold office in legislature, Governments, judiciaries and other public authority or influence)
- Access to court-of-law
- Right to privacy
- Property rights

7. Which of the following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities?

(YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)

- Medical care and other health care
- Training, rehabilitation and counselling
- Financial security (income maintenance/insurance)
- Employment
- Independent living
- Participate in decisions affecting themselves
- Other. Please specify: _____

8. Has any new legislation concerning disability been enacted since the adoption of the Rules?

No

Yes. Please specify: _____

SECTION III

Rule 5. Accessibility

"States should recognize the overall importance of accessibility in the process of the equalization of opportunities in all spheres of society. For persons with disabilities of any kind, States should introduce programs of action to make the physical environment accessible; and undertake measures to provide access to information and communication."

9. Are there laws, regulations and/or guidelines to ensure accessibility of the build environment?

No

Yes

10. If yes, does the legislation and other forms of regulation concerning the build environment establish national design standards or codes requiring that:

(YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)

Schools, hospitals, clinics, community centers, rehabilitation centers, theaters, etc. are made accessible

Outdoor environment, for instance, pavements are made accessible

Land, sea and air transportation are made accessible

Housing is made accessible

11. Who has the supervisory function in your country in ensuring that accessibility in the build environment is observed?

(YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)

A National authority

Local Governments

The constructor

The organizers/providers of services

No responsible body exists

Other. Please specify: _____

12. What measures have been promoted by your Government to facilitate accessibility in the build environment?

(YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)

Levelling off pavements

- Marking parking areas
- Installing automatic doors
- Installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets
- Access to public places such as stadiums, commercial centers, theaters and shops
- Improving accessibility in housing
- Financial incentives (e.g. interest-free loans) for accessibility measures when building and renovating housing
- Providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities
- Installing special lighting for visually impaired
- Using contrast colors for visually impaired
- Provision of specially adapted motor vehicles
- Other. Please specify: _____

13. Are there any special transport system/arrangement for persons with disabilities been developed in your country?

- No
- Yes. Please specify: _____

IF YES: To what purposes is special transport available?

(YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)

- Medical treatment
- Education
- Work
- Recreational purpose
- Other. Please specify: _____

14. When planing to build accessible environments which are, to your knowledge, the most difficult obstacles?

(YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)

- Attitudinal factors
- Economic/budgetary factors
- Technical factors
- Geographical and climatic factors
- Lack of legislation and regulations
- Lack of planning and design-capacity
- Lack of knowledge, research and information
- Lack of user participation
- Lack of cooperation from other organizations/institutions
- Lack of enforcement mechanisms
- Other. Please specify: _____

15. Is there a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of architects and/or construction engineers?

- No
- Yes

16. What is the status of sign language for deaf people in your country?

- Recognized as the official language of deaf people
- Used as the first language in education of deaf people
- Recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others
- Other. Please specify: _____
- No officially recognized status

17. Are there Government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities?

- No
- Yes

18. Are there Government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible for persons with disabilities?

- No
- Yes. Please specify: _____

19. Which of the following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons?

- (YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)
- Literature in Braille
 - Literature on tape
 - News magazines on tape/Braille
 - Sign language interpretation available for any purpose
 - Sign language interpretation available for major events
 - Easy readers for persons with mental disabilities
 - Other. Please specify _____
 - None

SECTION IV

Rule 18. Organizations of Persons With Disabilities

"States should recognize the right of the organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at national, regional and local levels. States should also recognize the advisory role of organizations of persons with disabilities in decision-making on disability matters."

20. Is there any national umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities?

- No
- Yes

IF YES: What organizations are represented/not represented in the umbrella?
Please give details: _____

21. Are there legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with Governmental institutions?

- No
- Yes

22. When preparing laws, regulations and/or guidelines with a disability aspect, are the views of organizations of persons with disabilities taken into account?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

23. If the views of the organizations are taken into account, at what level does that occur?

- National
- Regional
- Local level

24. What support is given by your Government to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities?

- Financial
- Organizational/logistic
- No support is given
- Other. Specify: _____

25. To what extent do persons with disabilities participate in political and public life?

1= Very limited extent 5= Great extent

	1	2	3	4	5
Government	-	-	-	-	-
Legislature	-	-	-	-	-
Judiciary	-	-	-	-	-
Political parties	-	-	-	-	-
NGO's	-	-	-	-	-

26. What role do the organizations of persons with disabilities have in your country?

(YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)

- Advocating rights and improved services
- Mobilize persons with disabilities
- Identify needs and priorities
- Participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and

- measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities
- Contribute to public awareness
 - Provide services
 - Promote/organize income generating activities
 - Other. Please specify:_____

SECTION V

Rule 17. Coordination of Work

"States are responsible for the establishment and strengthening of national coordinating committees, or similar bodies, to serve as a national focal point on disability matters."

27. Is there a national coordinating committee or similar body?

- No
- Yes

28. Is the coordinating committee reporting to:

- A particular Ministry. Please specify:_____
- To the Prime Minister's office or other central body?

Please specify: _____

29. Does the committee include representatives of:

Ministries of:

- Finance
- Justice
- Health and Social Affairs
- Employment
- Transport
- Housing
- Education
- Culture
- Planning
- Organizations of persons with disabilities
- Other NGOs
- Private sector
- Other. Please specify:_____

30. Is the national coordinating committee expected by the Government to participate in policy development?

- No
- Yes

31. Is your national coordinating committee expected to perform other tasks?

- No
- Yes

IF YES. Please specify: _____

32. What effects would you say that the establishment of the coordinating committee has had?

(YOU MAY MARK MORE THAN ONE)

- Improved coordination of measures/programs etc. in the disability field
- Improved legislation
- Improved integration of responsibility
- Better dialogue in the disability field
- More accurate planning
- More effective use of resources
- Improved promotion of public awareness
- Too early for an assessment
- Other. Please specify: _____

33. Has the adoption of the Standard Rules led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy?

Annex II and III

Countries Having Submitted Government and/or NGO's Replies

Countries from which Government and/or NGO's replies derive:	Number of NGO's	Government reply
ALBANIA	1	-
ARGENTINA	1	-
ARMENIA	1	-
AUSTRALIA	2	X
AUSTRIA	1	X
BAHRAIN	0	X
BARBADOS	1	X
BELARUS	3	-
BELGIUM	1	X
BELIZE	1	-
BENIN	2	-

BOLIVIA	0	X
BRAZIL	2	-
BULGARIA	1	-
BURKINA FASO	3	-
CAMBODIA	0	X
CAMEROON	1	-
CANADA	0	X
CAPE VERDE	1	-
CHAD	1	-
CHILE	2	X
CHINA	1	X
COLOMBIA	0	X
CONGO	2	X
COSTA RICA	4	-
CROATIA	2	X
CYPRUS	2	X
CZECH REPUBLIC	4	X
DENMARK	3	X
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2	-
ECUADOR	0	X
EGYPT	1	X
EL SALVADOR	1	-
ERITREA	0	X
ESTONIA	2	X
ETHIOPIA	1	-
FIJI	1	-
FINLAND	4	X
FRANCE	1	X
FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	0	X
GAMBIA	1	-
GEORGIA	1	X
GERMANY	3	X
GHANA	0	X
GREECE	3	X
GUINEA	0	X
HAITI	1	-
HOLY SEE	0	X
HONDURAS	0	X
HONG KONG	1	-
HUNGARY	4	X
ICELAND	2	X

INDIA	3	-
IRAN	0	X
IRAQ	0	X
IRELAND	1	-
ISRAEL	1	X
IVORY COAST	2	-
JAPAN	3	X
JORDAN	1	X
KENYA	2	-
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	1	X
KUWAIT	1	-
LATVIA	2	-
LEBANON	1	X
LESOTHO	1	-
LIECHTENSTEIN	0	X
LITHUANIA	2	X
LUXEMBOURG	1	X
MACAU	1	-
MADAGASCAR	2	X
MALAYSIA	3	-
MALAWI	1	X
THE MALDIVES	0	X
MALTA	0	X
MAURITANIA	1	-
MEXICO	1	X
MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF	0	X
MOROCCO	1	X
NAMIBIA	1	X
NEPAL	1	-
THE NETHERLANDS	1	X
NEW ZEALAND	1	X
NICARAGUA	1	-
NIGERIA	0	X
NORWAY	2	X
OMAN	0	X
PAKISTAN	0	X
PERU	1	X
PHILIPPINES	1	X
POLAND	4	X
PORTUGAL	2	X
QATAR	0	X
ROMANIA	2	X

RUSSIAN FEDERATION	1	X
SAN MARINO	0	X
S:T CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS	0	X
S:T KITTS-NEVIS	1	X
S:T LUCIA	0	X
SINGAPORE	2	-
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	3	-
SLOVENIA	2	X
SOMALIA	1	-
SOUTH AFRICA	2	X
SPAIN	2	X
SRI LANKA	1	X
SWAZILAND	1	-
SWEDEN	7	X
SWITZERLAND	2	X
TANZANIA, REPUBLIC OF	1	X
THAILAND	1	X
TOGO	1	-
TUNISIA	1	-
TURKMENISTAN	0	X
TURKEY	0	X
UGANDA	1	-
THE UKRAINE	1	X
THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1	-
UNITED KINGDOM	2	X
UNITED STATES	2	X
UZBEKISTAN	0	X
VENEZUELA	1	-
YEMEN, REPUBLIC OF	0	X
ZAIRE	1	-
ZAMBIA	0	X
ZIMBABWE	4	-

Countries with one NGO reply	55
Countries with two NGO's replies	25
Countries with three NGO's replies	9
Countries with four NGO's replies	6
Countries with seven NGO's replies	1
Total	96

ANNEX III

Countries without any NGO reply

Industrialized Countries

Canada
Holy See
Liechtenstein
San Marino

Middle East and North Africa

Bahrain
Iran
Iraq
Malta
Oman
Qatar
Turkey
Yemen, Republic of

Countries in Transition

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Moldova, Republic of
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan

Latin America and the Caribbean

Bolivia
Colombia
Ecuador
Honduras
S:t Christopher and Nevis
S:t Lucia

Sub-Saharan Africa

Eritrea
Ghana
Guinea
Nigeria
Zambia

South, East Asia and the Pacific

Cambodia

Maldives
Pakistan

There are 30 countries from which no NGO reply exists.

ANNEX IV

Countries without any Government reply

Industrialized Countries

Ireland

Middle East and north Africa

Kuwait
Tunisia
United Arab Emirates

Countries in Transition

Albania
Belarus
Bulgaria
Latvia
Slovak Republic

Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina
Belize
Brazil
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Haiti
Nicaragua
Venezuela

Sub-Saharan Africa

Benin
Burkina Faso
Cameroon

Cape Verde
 Chad
 Ethiopia
 Gambia
 Ivory Coast
 Kenya
 Lesotho
 Mauritania
 Somalia
 Swaziland
 Uganda
 Zaire
 Zimbabwe

South, East Asia and the Pacific

Armenia
 Fiji
 Hong Kong
 India
 Macau
 Malaysia
 Nepal
 Singapore
 Togo

There are 43 countries from which no Government reply exists.

Annex VI

List and Date of Submission of Governmental Replies Submitted

Country	Submitted by:	Date
AUSTRALIA	Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services	(31 March 1996)
AUSTRIA	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(3 April 1996)
BAHRAIN	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(25 March 1996)
BARBADOS	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(11 June 1996)
BELGIUM	Ministry of Social Affairs	(15 June 1996)
BOLIVIA	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(25 March 1996)

CAMBODIA	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(29 April 1996)
CANADA	Ministry unspecified	(15 September 1996)
CHILE	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(8 April 1996)
CHINA	China Disabled Persons Federation	(15 March 1996)
COLOMBIA	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(21 March 1996)
CONGO	Ministry unspecified	(10 June 1996)
CROATIA	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(8 July 1996)
CYPRUS	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(26 March 1996)
CZECH REPUBLIC	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(26 March 1996)
DENMARK	Ministry of Social Affairs	(29 March 1996)
ECUADOR	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(26 February 1996)
EGYPT	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(21 March 1996)
ERITREA	Ministry unspecified	(17 April 1996)
ESTONIA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(26 February 1996)
FINLAND	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(20 March 1996)
FRANCE	Ministry of Social Affairs	(6 May 1996)
FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	Ministry of Labor and Social Development	(15 May 1996)
GEORGIA	Ministry unspecified	(7 May 1996)
GERMANY	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(28 March 1996)
GHANA	Department of Social Welfare	(20 February 1996)
GREECE	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(29 March 1996)
GUINEA	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(29 May 1996)
HOLY SEE	To the United Nations after Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See	(8 May 1996)
HONDURAS	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(25 June 1996)
HUNGARY	Ministry of Welfare	(18 April 1996)
ICELAND	Ministry for Social Affairs	(26 February 1996)
IRAN	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(13 May 1996)
IRAQ	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(22 April 1996)

ISRAEL	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	(13 March 1996)
JAPAN	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(9 May 1996)
JORDAN	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(5 March 1996)
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(28 March 1996)
LEBANON	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(21 June 1996)
LIECHTENSTEIN	Office for Foreign Affairs	(13 May 1996)
LITHUANIA	Ministry of Social Security and Labor	(13 February 1996)
LUXEMBOURG	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(15 April 1996)
MADAGASCAR	Ministry of Social Affairs	(18 June 1996)
MALAWI	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(21 May 1996)
MALDIVES	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(22 April 1996)
MALTA	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(3 April 1996)
MEXICO	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(1 April 1996)
MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF	Ministry of Social Affairs	(19 March 1996)
MOROCCO	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(8 March 1996)
NAMIBIA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(6 March 1996)
NETHERLANDS	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(8 March 1996)
NEW ZEALAND	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(1 April 1996)
NIGERIA	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(25 April 1996)
NORWAY	Ministry of Health and Social Affairs	(29 March 1996)
OMAN	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(12 April 1996)
PAKISTAN	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(15 May 1996)
PERU	Transmitted by the Embassy in Stockholm	(25 April 1996)
PHILIPPINES	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(29 March 1996)
POLAND	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(10 April 1996)
PORTUGAL	Ministry of Social Affairs	(15 April 1996)
QATAR	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(21 May 1996)
ROMANIA	Ministry unspecified	(14 March 1996)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(30 April 1996)
SAN MARINO	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(18 April 1996)
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(7 May 1996)
SAINT KITTS and NEVIS	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(15 April 1996)
SAINT LUCIA	Ministry unspecified	(30 May 1996)
SLOVENIA	Transmitted by the Embassy in Stockholm	(7 May 1996)
SPAIN	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(26 March 1996)
SOUTH AFRICA	Ministry in the Office of the President	(13 March 1996)
SRI LANKA	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(27 March 1996)
SWEDEN	Ministry of Social Affairs	(2 April 1996)
SWITZERLAND	Ministry of Social Affairs	(4 April 1996)
TANZANIA, REPUBLIC OF	Ministry of Community Development, Women Affairs and Children	(12 June 1996)
THAILAND	Transmitted by the Embassy in Stockholm	(24 May 1996)
TURKEY	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(28 March 1996)
TURKMENISTAN	Ministry unspecified	(8 July 1996)
UKRAINE	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(15 April 1996)
UNITED KINGDOM	Transmitted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office	(12 March 1996)
UNITED STATES	National Council on Disability	(1 March 1996)
UZBEKISTAN	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(1 July 1996)
YEMEN, REPUBLIC OF	Transmitted by Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York	(22 April 1996)
ZAMBIA	Council for the Handicapped	(5 February 1996)

Annex VII

List of NGO replies contributed

REPLIES OF DPI MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Industrialised countries

THE DANISH COUNCIL OF ORGANISATIONS OF DISABLED PEOPLE,
DENMARK

GROUPEMENT FRANCAIS DES PERSONNES HANDICAPÉES, DPI, FRANCE

DPI, GERMANY

NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE, GREECE

DPI, JAPAN

NATIONAL DISABILITY COUNCIL, NETHERLANDS

ASSOCIACAO PORTUGUESA DE DEFICIENTES, PORTUGAL

CONFEDERACION COORDINADIRA ESTATAL DE MINUSVALIDOS FISICOS
DE ESPANA, SPAIN

HANDIKAPPFÖRBUNDENS SAMMARBETSORGAN (HSO), SWEDEN

NEUROLOGISKT HANDIKAPPADES RIKSFÖRBUND (NHR), SWEDEN

HÖRSELSKADADES RIKSFÖRBUND (HRF), SWEDEN

RIKSFÖRBUNDET FÖR MAG- OCH TARMSJUKA (RMT), SWEDEN
ASKIO, SWITZERLAND

Countries in transition

THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ORGANISATIONS OF
DISABLED PEOPLE, DPI, CZECH REPUBLIC

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DISABLED PERSONS' ASSOCIATIONS
(MEOSZ), HUNGARY

NATIONAL DIET OF DISABLED PEOPLE, DPI, POLAND

THE NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE DISABLED IN ROMANIA,
ROMANIA

ALLIANCE OF ORGANIZATIONS OF DISABLED PEOPLE, DPI, SLOVAK
REPUBLIC

Latin America and Caribbean

BARNOD INC. THE NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE DISABLED,
BARBADOS

FONDO NACIONAL DE LA DISCAPACIDAD, CHILE

DPI, COSTA RICA

ASOCIACION COOPERATIVA DEL GRUPO INDEPENDIENTE PRO
REHABILITACION INTEGRAL, EL SALVADOR

FENADIP, PERU

ST. KITTS-NEVIS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED PERSONS, S:T
KITTS-NEVIS

Sub-Saharan Africa

FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DES PERSONNES HANDICAPÉES DU
BENIN, BENIN

ASSOCIACAO DE APOIO AOS DEFICIENTES, CAPE VERDE

LESOTHO NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANISATIONS OF THE
DISABLED, LESOTHO

DISABLED PERSONS ASSOCIATION IN MALAWI, MALAWI
NATIONAL UNION OF DISABLED PERSONS OF UGANDA, UGANDA

South, East Asia and Pacific

CHINA DISABLED PERSONS' FEDERATION, CHINA

DPI, INDIA

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE DISABLED, NEPAL

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF DISABLED PERSONS,
PHILIPPINES

REPLIES OF ILSMH MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Industrialised countries

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY, AUSTRALIA

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE D'AIDE AUX HANDICAPÉS MENTAUX,
BELGIUM

FÖRBUNDET DE UTVECKLINGSSTÖRDAS VÄL, FINLAND

KEHITYSVAMMAISTEN TUKILIITTO r.y., FINLAND

LEBENSILFHE, INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL, GERMANY

NORWEGIAN ASSOCIATION FOR MENTALLY RETARDED, NORWAY

FEDERACAO NATIONAL COOPERATIVAS EDUCACAO REHABILITACAO
CRIANCAS INADAPTADAS (FENACERCI), PORTUGAL

RIKSFÖRBUNDET FÖR UTVECKLINGSSTÖRDA BARN, UNGDOMAR OCH

VUXNA, SWEDEN

FÉDÉRATION SUISSE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE PARENTS DE HANDICAPÉS
MENTAUX, SWITZERLAND

MENCAP, UNITED KINGDOM

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION, UNITED STATES

Middle East and North Africa

CYPRUS PARENTS ASSOCIATION FOR MENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS,
CYPRUS

CHRISTOS STELIOU IOANNOU FOUNDATIONS, CYPRUS

AKIM, INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL, ISRAEL

YOUNG MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, CENTRE FOR SPECIAL
EDUCATION, JORDAN

INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL, LEBANON

ASSOCIATION DES PARENTS ET AMIS D'ENFANTS INADAPTÉS,
MOROCCO

INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Countries in transition

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HANDICAP,
ALBANIA

PATHOLOGIES, BELARUS

ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH HANDICAP, BELARUS

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL
HANDICAP, BULGARIA

INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL, CROATIA

SDRUZENI PRO POMOC MENTALNE POSTIZENYM, ILSMH, CZECH
REPUBLIC

ESTONIAN MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS SUPPORT ORGANISATION,
ESTONIA

ERTELMİ FOGYATEKOSOK ORSZAGOS ERDEKVEDELMI SZÖVETSEG
(ÉFOÉSZ), HUNGARY

LITHUANIAN WELFARE SOCIETY FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL

DISABILITY, LITHUANIA

POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL HANDICAP, POLAND

REHABILITATION CENTRE OF DISABLED CHILDREN HAVING CEREBRAL PALSY AND SPINAL CORD

"ACTRAKHAN" ASSOCIATION, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED OF SLOVENIA, SLOVENIA

Latin America and Caribbean

FEDERACAO NACIONAL DAS APAEs, INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL, BRAZIL

SOCIEDAD PRO AYUDA DEL NINO LISIADO, CHILE

INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL, COSTA RICA

FUNDACION DOMINICANA PARA NINOS CON NECESIDADES ESPECIALES, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

CENTRE D'EDUCATION SPECIALE, HAITI

ASOCIACION DE PADRES DE FAMILIA CON HIJOS DISCAPACITADOS, NICARAGUA

INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL, MEXICO

Sub-Saharan Africa

ASSOCIATION DES PARENTS ET AMIS D'ENFANTS ENCÉPHALOPATHES DU BURKINA FASO, BURKINA FASO

APEHM, INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL, CAMEROON

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES PERSONNES HANDICAPÉES MENTALES DU CONGO, CONGO

ASSOCIATION DES PARENTS ET AMIS DES JEUNES HANDICAPES MENTAUX DE MADAGASCAR, MADAGASCAR

ASSOCIATION DES AMIS ET PARENTS D'ENFANTS HANDICAPES MENTAUX DE MADAGASCAR, MADAGASCAR

ASSOCIATION MAURITANIENNE POUR LA PROMOTION DES HANDICAPES MENTAUX, MAURITANIA

S.A. FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, SOUTH AFRICA

ZIMCARE TRUST, ZIMBABWE

South, East Asia and Pacific

NATIONAL FORUM FOR WELFARE OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED,
INDIA

REPLIES OF RI MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Industrialised countries

REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL, DENMARK

REHABILITATION FOUNDATION, FINLAND

HELLENIC SOCIETY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN, GREECE

THE ORGANISATION OF HANDICAPPED IN ICELAND AND THE NATIONAL
FEDERATION FOR THE AID OF THE HANDICAPPED, ICELAND

NATIONAL REHABILITATION BOARD, IRELAND

JAPANESE SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION OF DISABLED PERSONS, AND
THE JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED, JAPAN

Middle East and North Africa

KUWAIT SOCIETY FOR THE HANDICAPPED, KUWAIT

Countries in transition

ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED PERSONS IN CZECH REPUBLIC, RI, CZECH
REPUBLIC

INSTITUT REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE ZA REHABILITACIJO, SLOVENIA

Latin America and Caribbean

REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL, ARGENTINA
ASOCIACION DOMINICANA DE REHABILITACION, RI, DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

South, East Asia and Pacific

REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL, HONG KONG

MALAYSIAN LEPROSY RELIEF ASSOCIATION, MALAYSIA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, SINGAPORE

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE OF THAILAND, THAILAND

REPLIES OF WBU MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Industrialised Countries

DANSK BLINDESAMFUND, DENMARK

FINISH FEDERATION OF THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED, FINLAND

THE ICELANDIC ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND, ICELAND

ORGANIZATION NATIONAL DE CIEGOS, SPAIN

SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, SWEDEN

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, UNITED KINGDOM

Middle East and North Africa

UNION NATIONALE DES AVEUGLES DE TUNISIE, TUNISIA

Countries in transition

ARMENIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND, ARMENIA

CROATIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND, CROATIA

CZECH ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND, CZECH REPUBLIC

ESTONIAN FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, ESTONIA

FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, HUNGARY

LATVIAN SOCIETY OF THE BLIND, LATVIA

COUNCIL OF THE LITHUANIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED, LITHUANIA

POLISH ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND, POLAND

ROMANIAN BLIND ASSOCIATION, ROMANIA

SLOVAK BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED UNION, SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Latin America and Caribbean

WBU, COSTA RICA

Sub-Saharan Africa

ASSOCIATION BURKINABE POUR LA PROMOTION DES AVEUGLES ET MALVOYANTS, BURKINA FASO

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES DEFICIENTS VISUELS AU TCHAD, CHAD

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES AVEUGLES ET DEFICIENTS VISUELS DU CONGO, CONGO

ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND, ETHIOPIA

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES FEMMES AVEUGLES DE COTE D'IVOIRE, IVORY COAST

KENYA UNION OF THE BLIND, KENYA

SYNSKADEORGANISATION, NAMIBIA

SOMALI SOCIETY OF THE BLIND, SOMALIA

ZIMBABWE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF THE BLIND, ZIMBABWE

THE COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND, ZIMBABWE

South, East Asia and Pacific

FIJI SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND, FIJI

ALL INDIA CONFEDERATION OF THE BLIND, INDIA

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND, MALAYSIA - NCBM

SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION OF THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED, SINGAPORE

THE SRI LANKA FEDERATION OF THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED, SRI LANKA

REPLIES OF WFD MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Industrialised countries

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, AUSTRALIA

ÖSTERREICHISCHER GEHÖRLOSENBUND, AUSTRIA

DEUTSCHER GEHÖRLOSEN-BUND E.V., GERMANY

GREEK FEDERATION OF THE DEAF, GREECE

DEAF ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND, NEW ZEALAND

NORGES DÖVEFORBUND, NORWAY

SWEDISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, SWEDEN

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, UNITED STATES

Middle East and North Africa

ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, EGYPT

Countries in transition

THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, HUNGARY

LATVIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, LATVIA

POLISH ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, POLAND

BYELORUSSIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, BELARUS

SLOVAK UNION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING, SLOVAK
REPUBLIC

UKRAINE SOCIETY OF THE DEAF, CENTRAL BOARD (USD CB), UKRAINE

Latin America and Caribbean

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEAF, BELIZE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE DEAF, BRAZIL

WFD, COSTA RICA

FEDERACION VENEZOLANA DE SORDOS, VENEZUELA

Sub-Saharan Africa

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES SOURDS DU BENIN, BENIN

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES DEFICIENTS AUDITIF DU BURKINA FASO,
BURKINA FASO

THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING,
GAMBIA

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES SOURDS DE COTE D'IVOIRE, IVORY
COAST

KENYA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, KENYA

DEAF FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, DEAFSA, SOUTH AFRICA
SWAZILAND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, SWAZILAND
ASSOCIATION DES SOURDS DU TOGO, TOGO
ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES SOURDS DU ZAIRE, ZAIRE
ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, ZIMBABWE

South, East Asia and Pacific

MACAU DEAF ASSOCIATION, MACAU
ORGANISATION OF THE DEAF, MALAYSIA

The selected NGO's all belong to the international organizations represented in the Panel of Experts, that is, Disabled Persons International (DPI), Rehabilitation International (RI), World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), World Blind Union (WBU), World Federation of Psychiatric Users (WFPU), Inclusion International (ILSMH).

In the case of Belgium three separate replies were received. This explains the total of 85 in the tables.

Legislation the term denotes the whole or any part of a country's written law.

Special legislation for persons with disabilities is dealing exclusively with disability matters and embodies the rights and obligations of disabled persons. The general legislation is conceived to imply the following: within the framework of each individual piece of legislation, persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights and obligations as other citizens and that, in cases where it is necessary to make different provisions concerning their status, the respective provisions are part of the legislation concerned.

See International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Articles 2, §3, and Articles 16 and 26.

"Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes:

- a. To ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized are violated shall have an effective remedy, notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in an official capacity;
- b. To ensure that any person claiming such a remedy shall have his right thereto determined by competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities, or by any other competent authority provided for by the legal system of the State, and to develop the possibilities of judicial remedy;
- c. To ensure that the competent authorities shall enforce such remedies when granted." (Article 2, §3) "Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law." (Article 16)

"All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law." (Article 26)

See the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Articles 23, §1,2, and Articles 17 and 25.

"The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State."

"The right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family shall be recognized." (Article 23, §1,2)

"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy..." (Article 17)

"Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity:

- a. To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
- b. To vote and to be elected /.../
- c. To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country." (Article 25) "The persons with intellectual disabilities have suffered far more from the stupidity of others than from that of their own". Bengt Nirje The Normalization Principle - 25 years Later, p.20

See the International Covenant on economic, Social and Cultural Rights Articles 9, 6.

"The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance." (Article 9)

"1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and will take appropriate steps to safeguard this right.

2. The steps to be taken by a State Party to the present Covenant to achieve full realization of this right shall include technical and vocational guidance and training programmes, policies and techniques to achieve steady economic, social and cultural development and full and productive employment under conditions safeguarding fundamental political and economic freedoms to the individual."

An effect of this objective is the growing differentiation that has emerged between organizations of persons with disabilities and organizations for them. Organizations of persons with disabilities are run by disabled people. Organizations for persons with disabilities are run by non-disabled people.

Legislature is the body having the primary responsibility of enacting written law. In most countries this body is the Parliament.
