



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Concluding observations on the initial report of the Netherlands*

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the initial report of the Netherlands¹ at its 725th and 726th meetings, held on 15 August 2024. It adopted the present concluding observations at its 747th meeting, held on 30 August 2024.
2. The Committee welcomes the initial report of the Netherlands, which was prepared in accordance with the Committee's reporting guidelines, and thanks the State party for its written replies² to the list of issues prepared by the Committee.³
3. The Committee appreciates the constructive dialogue held with the delegation. The Committee also expresses its appreciation for the active participation of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, in its capacity as the national human rights institution and independent monitoring mechanism, pursuant to article 33 (2) of the Convention.

II. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and to implement the Convention since its accession thereto in 2016, including the following:
 - (a) The development and adoption of the National Strategy 2040 for further implementation of the Convention, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities at the national and municipal levels, in February 2024;
 - (b) The decision by the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention;
 - (c) The amendment to art. 1 of the Constitution to include discrimination on the ground of disability, adopted in February 2023;
 - (d) The decision by the Government to introduce national equal treatment legislation in the Caribbean territory of the Netherlands, including the Equal Treatment Disability or Chronic Illness Act, with a law planned to go into effect in January 2025;
 - (e) The adoption of the new Youth Reform Agenda 2023-2028, aimed at amending parts of the Child and Youth Act (2015) to improve support for young persons with disabilities and their families, in June 2023;

* Adopted by the Committee at its thirty-second session (12 August–5 September 2024).

¹ CRPD/C/NLD/1.

² CRPD/C/NLD/RQ/1.

³ CRPD/C/NLD/Q/1.

- (f) The recognition of Dutch Sign Language as an official language in 2021;
- (g) Steps taken to implement the European Accessibility Act, providing for accessibility standards across various sectors, such as goods, services, and digital content for persons with disabilities.

III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1–4)

5. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not intend to withdraw its interpretative declarations to certain articles of the Convention, which limit the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends the State party take steps to withdraw its interpretative declarations to ensure the full protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee notes that the State party has communicated its intention to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention, but has not yet completed the ratification process.

8. The Committee recommends the State party expeditiously finalize the process to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

9. The Committee is concerned about the timeline for the ratification and implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean territories of the Netherlands.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the ratification and full implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands, and establish a plan for implementing the Convention with clear targets, timelines, and indicators. Furthermore, the Committee recommends the State party establish a process for the close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands through their representative organizations, as well as an independent monitoring mechanism of the implementation process. The Committee urges the State party to ensure the swift implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands, to ensure that persons with disabilities fully enjoy their rights, and base all new legislation on the human rights model of disability.

11. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive strategy that addresses all articles and principles of the Convention, which results in the Convention not been fully incorporated into domestic law;

(b) The lack of a systematic review process of existing laws, policies and regulations to ascertain their conformity with the obligations under the Convention, or that legislative action is taken to ensure compliance with the Convention, as well as the lack of harmonization in the implementation of the Convention across all levels of government, including national and municipal levels, resulting in inconsistencies as well as highly uneven protection and support for persons with disabilities infringing on their rights under the Convention;

(c) The uneven implementation of the Convention across municipalities, particularly in areas such as the legal obligation to devise an Inclusion Agenda, accessibility of public services, provision of social support, and funding for organizations of persons with disabilities, and the lack of coordination between municipalities, which create barriers for persons with disabilities and can significantly disrupt their lives and hinder their full participation in society, leading to a gap between the legal framework recognizing rights under the Convention and its practical implementation and everyday reality experienced by persons with disabilities;

(d) The judiciary and administrative bodies generally not interpreting domestic law in the light of the Convention, even in areas where the respective interpretive scope would exist.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a comprehensive strategy to mainstream all principles, obligations and rights of the Convention across all levels of government and ensure that all legislation and policies are in line with the human rights model of disability;

(b) Systematically review existing laws, policies and regulations to ascertain the legislative action required to conform with the obligations under the Convention, and establish human rights-based action plans with a clear concept of disability that contain measures to promote, protect and fulfil the rights under the Convention.

(c) Establish national standards and guidelines to ensure effective implementation of the Convention across municipalities, provide adequate resources and training to local authorities and assist municipalities in meeting their obligations under the Convention, especially in relation to the quality of support services and the establishment of an Inclusion Agenda; develop a strategy to ensure clear communication and coordination between municipalities to facilitate the continuity of services and support for persons with disabilities in all areas of life when moving between municipalities;

(d) Ensure that its judicial and administrative bodies consistently and effectively apply the rights enshrined in the Convention in individual cases, be it as bases for claims of action or as guidance for the interpretation of domestic law.

13. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities in policy- and decision-making processes, including women with disabilities, and the resulting failure to address specific requirements and barriers in legislation, policies and programs, including insufficient mechanisms for consultation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities at all levels of government, as well as the barriers that organisations of persons with disabilities face in participating equally in national and European standardisation processes, affecting the development of accessibility standards;

(b) The lack of financial support and insufficient structural funding for organisations of persons with disabilities to enable participation in public decision-making;

14. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, in all policy and legislative processes, including mechanisms for regular consultation and involvement, adequate resources and support to the organizations to build their capacity for effective participation, including in the Caribbean territory of the Netherlands, and promote the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in all areas and at all levels; prioritise the objective of adopting a clear strategy to create an infrastructure for participation in the National Strategy 2040;

(b) Adopt policies to create the financial preconditions for participation of all persons with disabilities through their representative organisations on all government levels and for all sizes of organisations, including by ensuring long-term and structural support.

B. Specific rights (arts. 5–30)

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

15. The Committee notes with concern that studies and data indicate that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, continue to face stigmatization and discrimination in various forms despite existing legal provisions. The Committee is also concerned about:

- (a) The exemption of education from anti-discrimination legislation;
- (b) The disparities in policy enforcement and practices across different regions and institutions that lead to highly inconsistent protection and support for persons with disabilities infringing on their rights under the Convention;
- (c) The lack of consideration of intersectionality in policies and laws, namely the absence of measures to address requirements, experiences and multiple and intersecting barriers of persons with disabilities who may experience discrimination on multiple grounds;
- (d) The limited complaint procedures, legal remedies, and redress mechanisms for persons with disabilities experiencing discrimination;
- (e) The absence of data on disability, gender or age, namely in the courts' data collection system, which makes it impossible to monitor the intersectionality of discrimination.

16. **The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Amend the Equal Treatment of Disabled and Chronically Ill People Act and explicitly include the right to inclusive education;**
- (b) Develop and implement clear guidelines and procedures to ensure the consistent application and enforcement of anti-discrimination policies and practices across all regions and institutions;**
- (c) Specifically address issues of intersectionality in the National Strategy 2040 for the implementation of the Convention;**
- (d) Ensure the effectiveness of complaint procedures and redress mechanisms and their accessibility for persons with disabilities and their representative organisations;**
- (e) Systematically collect disaggregated data on disability, race, gender, age, ethnicity and other status, in order to take adequate measures against and focus on intersectionality of discrimination in all areas of life.**

Women with disabilities (art. 6)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of laws and policies on gender equality in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The absence of policies, programs, and measures to protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, particularly in cases of domestic and sexual violence;
- (c) The absence of government plans to take action aimed at the advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities and the omission to place the position of women and girls with disabilities on the national agenda;
- (d) The lack of explicit inclusion of women with disabilities in policies about gender equality or disability even though they are more likely to fall victim to violence, including sexual violence, than other women and men with disabilities, and the lack of awareness of the intersection of gender and disability at the level of policy makers.

18. **The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals,**

recommends that the State party, in close consultation with women and girls with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Enact specific laws and policies that guarantee gender equality in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities, in order to provide a foundation for women with disabilities to enjoy equal rights across all aspects of society.

(b) Establish policies, programs, and other measures to protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, with a particular focus on preventing domestic and sexual violence against them.

(c) Ensure that the rights of women with disability are taken into account in all relevant legislative and policy frameworks and placed prominently on government plans and agendas;

(d) Develop policies and programs on gender equality and disability that explicitly address the requirements of women with disabilities, and improve the awareness of the intersection of gender and disabilities at the level of policy makers.

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

19. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There are no specific laws and policies that explicitly address the requirements of children with disabilities;

(b) The existing comprehensive support programs and services for children with disabilities may not be sufficiently effective or widely accessible;

(c) There is a gap in the systematic collection and management of data concerning children with disabilities;

(d) The involvement of children with disabilities in decision-making processes that affect their lives is limited. While provisions exist, there is insufficient evidence to show that the views of children with disabilities are consistently and effectively considered.

20. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities⁴, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop and implement specific laws and policies that explicitly address the rights of children with disabilities. Ensure these laws provide tailored support that considers the specific requirements of children with disabilities.

(b) Strengthen and expand comprehensive support programs for children with disabilities, focusing on education, healthcare, and inclusion. Ensure that these programs are adequately funded, widely accessible, and effectively monitored.

(c) Systematically collect and manage data on children with disabilities, balancing privacy concerns with the need for accurate information. Include data on the number of children receiving services, in detention, in refugee centers, and involved in trafficking.

(d) Develop mechanisms to ensure that children with disabilities can freely express their views on all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight according to their age and maturity. Provide age, gender and disability-responsive support to facilitate their participation.

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

⁴ See www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crpd/statements-declarations-and-observations.

(a) The widespread use of prenatal screening/testing (NIPT) to detect impairment in fetuses that may lead to the termination of pregnancies, reflecting underlying discriminatory attitudes towards persons with disabilities;

(b) Reports of pressure by health personnel on parents to terminate pregnancies following a diagnosis of Down syndrome or other impairments, and the increase in selective terminations of pregnancies, promoting the medical model of and reinforcing societal perceptions that persons with Down syndrome and other impairments are less valuable.

(c) The insufficient inclusion of disability awareness in educational curricula and training programs for civil servants and the insufficient involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in awareness-raising initiatives and the inadequate reach of communication campaigns in media and society, and about public awareness-raising campaigns not being sufficiently comprehensive in combating stigmatization, stereotypes, prejudice, harmful practices, negative attitudes, bullying, and hate crimes, particularly in relation to various types of impairment.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities:

(a) Implement measures to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, including awareness-raising campaigns to combat discriminatory attitudes and promote the inherent value of all persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that persons using NIPT are provided with comprehensive information and non-directive counselling that do not promote stereotypes about persons with disabilities and values associated to the medical model of disability, and help parents make fully informed decisions;

(c) Adopt and implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes and measures such as targeted public awareness campaigns to combat stigma and discrimination, specialized training programs on the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, the media, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, the general public and families of children with disabilities, and establish a robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Accessibility (art. 9)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The gaps still existing in ensuring accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information, and communication for persons with disabilities, despite existing legislation, and the limited possibilities of legal enforcement of accessibility standards, particularly for existing buildings and goods and services;

(b) The slow integration of a 'universal design' approach in the State party's policies, including in municipal planning laws, and about insufficient accessibility requirements in public procurement laws and agreements;

(c) The delays in the full transposition of the European Accessibility Act (EAA) into national law, the lack of ambition to fully implement accessibility requirements for the built environment as well as the absence of mandatory monitoring of the accessibility progress and implementation both in the Residential Construction Decree and the Environment and Planning Act;

(d) The high number of inaccessible websites and apps of public sector bodies, despite the compulsory accessibility requirements, and the delays in the full implementation of the Web Accessibility Directive, as well as the reports on wrongful claims of full accessibility in accessibility declarations on government websites;

(e) The lack of digital accessibility and knowledge among private providers, particularly affecting persons with visual impairments.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and Goal 9 as well as targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop and implement comprehensive measures to ensure full accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information, and communication for persons with disabilities in both urban and rural areas;

(b) Expedite the integration of a ‘universal design’ standard in all accessibility policies, ensuring that environments, products and services are designed to be accessible and usable by everyone to the greatest extent possible without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

(c) Fully transpose the European Accessibility Act into national law swiftly, exceeding its minimum requirements; render the accessibility requirements for the built environment mandatory and incorporate these standards in national public procurement; establish an overarching enforcement and monitoring mechanism for accessibility of public spaces and the built environment through the Environment and Planning Act and the Residential Construction Decree;

(d) Take immediate steps to ensure that all websites and apps of public sector bodies are fully accessible and in compliance with national legislation and the European Standard EN 301 549; establish a stringent verification for accessibility declarations on government websites and process and regular monitoring to prevent wrongful claims of full accessibility;

(e) Enhance digital accessibility and knowledge among private providers, namely health care providers, by implementing targeted training programs, providing technical support, and offering incentives to adopt inclusive design practices.

Right to life (art. 10)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The significant number of persons with disabilities who have died under the responsibility of law enforcement officers, compared to persons without disabilities.

(b) The recent changes in the euthanasia law and the lack of specific protection measures to ensure adequate decision-making for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that the existing stigma around ‘confused behaviour’ does not have a negative impact on the work of law enforcement;

(b) Ensure that persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities can freely express their informed consent under the new euthanasia law by, inter alia, establishing mechanisms ensuring full, unbiased and disability-responsive information and protecting from undue influence and pressure.

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of inclusion of the requirements of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction plans and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk, and the insufficient consultation of persons with disabilities in the drafting of such plans and strategies;

(b) Information and communication measures not being accessible for all types of disabilities during emergencies and that the safety and well-being of persons with disabilities during emergencies are not guaranteed.

28. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

in Humanitarian Action and the Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies⁵, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including by:

(a) Ensuring that disaster risk response plans and strategies at the federal, regional, and municipal levels are drafted in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations and explicitly respond to their specific requirements in all situations of risk;

(b) Ensuring the full accessibility of all various communication measures, including emergency numbers and hotlines implementing real-time communication methods and providing 24/7 access to services such as text messaging, video relay services, and other accessible communication technologies to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively reach emergency services at all times.

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The effect of the interpretative declaration to art. 12 of the Convention;

(b) The lack of recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to equality before the law by upholding substitute decision-making regimes that result in loss or limitation of legal capacity, and the lack of comprehensive and coordinated measures to transition from substitute decision-making to supported decision-making models, and that supported decision-making mechanisms are not being implemented for everyone;

(c) Negative effects linked to administrative guardianship in all areas of life, such as special banks that segregate and make the existence of guardianship visible to anyone, high costs associated with changing administrators and guardianship as a legitimate reason to refuse a person as a tenant.

30. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Withdraw its interpretative declaration to art. 12 of the Convention;

(b) Repeal all legislation and policies that permit substitute decision-making and replace them with supported decision-making regimes that respect the will and preference of persons with disabilities and their right to equal recognition before the law, and fully implement supported decision-making, including monitoring and complaints mechanisms at no cost, and introduce a system of supported decision-making in the Caribbean territory of the Netherlands;

(c) Ensure that access to housing cooperatives and banks is not negatively impacted by existing guardianship regimes.

Access to justice (art. 13)

31. The Committee is concerned about the barriers to access to justice for persons with disabilities, namely:

(a) Restrictions on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with disabilities under guardianship or other forms of substituted decision-making regimes;

(b) Limited accessibility of many courthouses, and limited accessibility of legal proceedings in judicial and administrative bodies, especially for persons with disabilities with hearing impairments;

⁵ CRPD/C/5.

- (c) The high costs for legal aid and court fees, impeding access to justice for persons with low income, such as persons with disabilities who rely on benefits;
- (d) Complex appeals procedures and a lack of accessible information.

32. **The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, endorsed by the Committee, as well as target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal legislation that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities in judicial and administrative proceedings, and guarantee their access to justice on an equal basis with others, including throughout judicial and administrative proceedings;**

(b) **Ensure access to judicial and administrative facilities for all persons with disabilities, including through universal design, and the provision of alternative and augmentative means of information and communication for use throughout legal proceedings, such as Braille, sign language, accessible digital formats, Easy Read, audio description and video transcription;**

(c) **Take necessary measures to ensure that economic barriers do not impede access to justice, particularly for individuals reliant on disability benefits.**

(d) **Render legal procedures disability- and gender-responsive and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to clear, accessible information and adequate legal assistance and establish a central point for tailored advice and support, that can help persons with disabilities to navigate the complexities of the legal system and exercise their rights effectively.**

Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Provisions in the Act on Compulsory Mental Healthcare (WVGZ) and the Act on Care and Involuntary Treatment of Psychogeriatric and Mentally Disabled Clients (WGZ) that allow for the involuntary detention of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) The complex and difficult to understand complaint mechanism against compulsory institutionalization and the lack of accessible information about the right to support by a client confidential counsellor;

(c) Information on a lack of training of law enforcement officers on the requirements of persons with disabilities.

34. **Recalling the Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities⁶ and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies⁷, as well as its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative, administrative, policy and judicial measures necessary to:**

(a) **Review and repeal all legal provisions, policies and practices that allow for the involuntary deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability and withdraw the interpretative declaration to article 14 of the Convention;**

(b) **Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework on involuntary treatment, including involuntary measures at home, and take measures to ensure compliance with reporting obligations and provide persons with disabilities with information in accessible formats and access to legal representation in filing complaints against forced institutionalization;**

⁶ A/72/55, annex.

⁷ CRPD/C/5.

(c) **Provide training to all law enforcement officers on the requirements of persons with disabilities;**

(d) **Recognize the Committee's joint open letter with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities of June 2021⁸ and in its future participation in any process for an additional protocol or recommendation to the Oviedo Convention, do not support coercive measures and promote to establish a non-coercive framework on mental health.**

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

35. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The effect of the interpretative declaration to art. 15 of the Convention and the exceptions for unique situations in national legislation, which contain the risk of subjecting persons with disabilities to medical or scientific experimentation without their consent;

(b) The use of forced medical procedures and treatment, such as non-consensual administration of medication or electroconvulsive therapy, on persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals and social care institutions, as well as the continued use of solitary confinement in care facilities and reports of the use of tasers by law enforcement officers in mental health institutions, despite motions banning such use;

(c) The dependency of many persons with disabilities on care providers as an intermediate party to file a complaint;

(d) Reports that insufficient measures have been taken by the State party to address the concerns expressed by the Committee against Torture regarding the treatment of children in institutional settings for young people, and reports from organizations of persons with disabilities of abuse and violence in closed youth care facilities like the ZIKOS-institutions.

36. **Recalling its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies⁹, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Withdraw the interpretative declaration to Article 15 of the Convention and amend national legislation to unequivocally prohibit any medical or scientific experimentation on persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent;**

(b) **Eliminate in law, policy and practice all forms of forced medical procedures and treatment; cease the use of solitary confinement in care facilities, and develop and implement alternative measures; enforce the ban on the use of tasers by law enforcement officers in mental health institutions, and ensure that actions by law enforcement in institutions are strictly regulated and monitored;**

(c) **Establish independent and accessible complaint mechanisms that allow persons with disabilities to file complaints directly, without reliance on care providers, and ensure that all complaints are thoroughly investigated and addressed;**

(d) **Cease placement of children in closed care institutions, closely monitor existing institutions and end operation of all closed youth care facilities; ensure that alternative community-based care and support options are available and accessible.**

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

37. The Committee is concerned about:

⁸ See

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2FDocuments%2FHRBodies%2FCRPD%2FOpen_letter_Add_Prot_Ovi_Conv.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK.

⁹ CRPD/C/5.

(a) The insufficient protection of students with disabilities through the Policy vision on the promotion and protection of sexual health in schools and the lacking accessibility of it;

(b) The significant number of persons with disabilities who have experienced sexual violence and the high risk of violence and abuse for women and girls with disabilities, both in public and in private spheres, and about reports that women and girls with disabilities who are victims of sexual violence cannot access the Sexual Assault Center (Centrum Seksueel Geweld), the Domestic Violence Advice and Reporting Center (Veilig Thuis), or numerous shelters for women, as well as the lack of accessible information about sexual violence and victim support services;

(c) The lack of comprehensive data collection, research and monitoring on the prevalence and nature of violence, including sexual abuse, against persons with disabilities, including women, children, older persons, as well as migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities;

(d) The lack of an action plan to implement the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention).

38. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities¹⁰, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Review its policy and measures for the promotion and protection of sexual health in school settings and ensure full accessibility and early identification of violence and abuse against students with disabilities;

(b) Implement comprehensive and targeted measures to prevent and address sexual violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, including suitably equipped and accessible support services for survivors; guarantee that women and girls with disabilities who are victims of sexual violence can access the centres and shelters for women; Ensure accessibility of such centres and shelters and of information on sexual violence, victim support services and reporting mechanisms;

(c) Establish a comprehensive data collection system and monitoring mechanisms to gather disaggregated data on all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including intersectional data on gender, age, type of disability, and other relevant factors, and conduct comprehensive disability-inclusive research;

(d) Develop an action plan to implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), specifically addressing the requirements of women and girls with disabilities.

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Information on possible treatment and counselling by medical experts still being based on the medical model of disability, for example concerning intersex children as well as the information provided to pregnant women undergoing prenatal screening;

(b) The reports of non-consensual, unnecessary and irreversible medical interventions and treatment performed on intersex persons, including during infancy and childhood, including sterilization and castration, hormone treatment and genital surgery often performed under the age of 12;

¹⁰ See https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2021/12/CRPD-Statement-25_11_2021-End-violence-against-Women-1.pdf.

(c) Reports of legal provisions and practices that allow for forced contraception of women with disabilities.

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

(a) **Ensure that counselling and information services in areas relating to disability, namely for intersex parents and their families and for pregnant women undergoing prenatal screening, are based on the human rights model rather than the medical model of disability;**

(b) **Adopt clear legislative provisions that explicitly prohibit the performance of unnecessary and irreversible medical interventions, including surgical, hormonal or other medical procedures, on intersex infants and children; provide adequate counselling and support for families of intersex children; and provide health care and psychosocial support to intersex persons who have been subjected to intersex genital mutilation;**

(c) **Repeal legal provisions and practices, if any, that allow for forced contraception of persons with disabilities, ensuring that any decision related to contraception is based on the free and informed consent of the individuals concerned.**

Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information about accessibility of information and training and monitoring of people working with asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities;

(b) The omission to systematically collect disaggregated data on asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities.

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

(a) **Provide training for people working with asylum seekers, refugees and persons in refugee-like situations on the rights and requirements of persons with disabilities, ensuring the establishment of disability- and gender-responsive protocols;**

(b) **Establish a data collection mechanism to inform the development of targeted policies and programs and to monitor the effectiveness of measures taken to support the rights of refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities and of persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations.**

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

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The continued institutionalization of adults and children with disabilities, in particular with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, along with reports of violence and abuse in these institutions and the lack of a clear, actionable plan and timeframe for deinstitutionalization;

(b) Lack of fully accessible community-based services, including mental health services and personal assistance;

(c) Reports of a persistent shortage of affordable and accessible housing for persons with disabilities;

(d) The lack of attention paid to the realization of inclusive housing and living arrangements, as well as the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities regarding housing and living arrangements when moving within or between municipalities, leading to challenges in maintaining independent living, as well as the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, especially persons facing complex barriers, when applying for support services in municipalities, due to the bureaucratic, difficult to understand and lengthy application process.

44. **Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in**

emergencies¹¹, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities¹², the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Develop and implement a clear strategy and a comprehensive action plan to end, as a matter of priority, the institutionalization of all persons with disabilities, including in small residential homes, and to support the transition of adults and children with disabilities to community-based and domestic settings, with specific time frames, sufficient human, technical and financial resources, and clear responsibilities for implementation and independent monitoring;

(b) Develop plans and implement existing programs to provide and strengthen community-based services, including developing mental health services and personal assistance in the community, and make existing services accessible to all persons with disabilities living in the community;

(c) Increase efforts, at all levels of the State party, to end the shortage of affordable and accessible housing for persons with disabilities;

(d) Enhance knowledge and awareness of inclusive housing and living arrangements and the right of persons with disabilities to live independently; harmonize regulations and procedures across municipalities and reduce obstacles to ensure that persons with disabilities face minimal disruptions when moving within or between municipalities; render the application process for support services in municipalities fully accessible and ensure that persons with disabilities get timely access to the support necessary to live independently;

(e) Re-examine the allocation of funds, including the regional funds obtained from the European Union dedicated to the provision of support services for persons with disabilities, to ensure the full implementation of the right to independent living.

Personal mobility (art. 20)

45. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That public transport is not yet fully accessible for persons with disabilities, limiting their ability to move freely and independently, and the problems encountered when combining different types of transport, leading to coordination problems and inconsistent accessibility; the partial replacement of public transport with neighbourhood buses run by volunteers that are not accessible, leading to reliance on segregated target group transport;

(b) The reported problems with target group transport persons with disabilities are still very much reliant on, such as lacking availability, punctuality, significantly longer travel time compared to regular public transport;

(c) The different laws and regimes applicable, and the different authorities responsible for the provision of mobility aids, leading to fragmentation and administrative obstacles, such as the need for reapplication upon retirement or moving between municipalities; the contractual limitations in the range of mobility aid instruments provided by support provision organisations in asylum centres and the resulting lower quality.

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

(a) **Expediently ensure full accessibility of public transport, regardless of mode of transportation or provider;**

(b) **Minimize the need for target group transport by ensuring all public transport is fully accessible; improve the reliability and efficiency of target group transport;**

¹¹ CRPD/C/5.

¹² A/HRC/52/32.

(c) **Harmonize laws and regulations concerning the provision of mobility aids to maintain continuity of support and services; ensure that all asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations have access to high-quality mobility aids that meet their specific requirements.**

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

47. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a national legislation on audio description;
- (b) The shortage of Dutch sign language interpreters and the increased restrictiveness in the allocation of interpreting hours by the Netherlands Employee Insurance Agency (UWV);
- (c) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to public information and communication, including on websites and in media services.

48. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

- (a) **Enact legislation to guarantee audio description across public and private media;**
- (b) **Take measures against the shortage of Dutch sign language interpreters and ensure a fair and sufficient allocation of interpreting hours for persons with hearing disabilities;**
- (c) **Allocate sufficient funding for the development, promotion and use of different accessible communication formats, including but not limited to Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, video transcription, captioning and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication.**

Respect for privacy (art. 22)

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of legislation regulating the exchange of non-medical privacy-sensitive data, and the lack of clarity in the rules on processing of medical and non-medical data outside of the WZD and the WVGZZ.

50. **The Committee recommends that the State party establish clear rules to minimize the personal and medical data required from persons with disabilities when applying for welfare, insurance, and other entitlement, ensuring that only essential information is collected, and provide measures to protect individuals from undue pressure to disclose personal data.**

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The interpretative declaration to art. 23 of the Convention;
- (b) Restrictions in national legislation of the right to custody, the right to marriage and the right to parenthood for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) Professionals evaluating persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities as 'not good enough for parenting', and supporting the use of contraception as well as discouraging them to start a family.

52. **The Committee welcomes the information received by the State party during the Constructive dialogue about the ongoing discussion concerning the withdrawal of the interpretative declaration to art. 23, and recommends the State party:**

- (a) **Withdraw its interpretative declaration to art. 23 of the Convention;**
- (b) **Take concrete steps to review the provisions contained in the national legislation restricting the right to custody, to marriage and to parenthood of persons**

with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and replace them with provisions establishing a supported decision-making model;

(c) Take measures to safeguard the reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities, including education and awareness programs and training for healthcare professionals on the reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities and their right for autonomous decision-making without any form of discrimination.

Education (art. 24)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The perpetuation of the dual education system and the lack of concrete objectives, timelines and evaluations in the Working Agenda for Inclusive Education 2035 for developing quality inclusive education;

(b) The high and increasing number of children placed in special education and the growing waiting lists at schools for special education, as well as the possibility and increasingly significant number of exemptions from compulsory education on the basis of article 5a of the Compulsory Education Act;

(c) The limited training provided to general education teachers on the rights of children with disabilities to inclusive education and on inclusive education methods of teaching;

(d) The lack of accessibility in mainstream schools to the supports necessary for inclusive education, especially the lack of reasonable accommodation, taking into account all different types of disabilities, namely for deaf pupils and students with hearing impairments;

(e) Reports about stigma against students with disabilities, including discouraging persons with disabilities to access tertiary education.

54. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016), on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close consultation and with active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, learners with disabilities and their families, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Work towards a fully inclusive education system for all children, including children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and autistic children, that ends specialized education; review the current implementation plan; establish concrete objectives, timelines, and evaluation mechanisms to ensure effective transition towards inclusive education;

(b) Take immediate measures to reduce the number of children placed in special education by increasing the capacity of mainstream schools to accommodate students with disabilities, providing adequate resources and support to mainstream schools to facilitate inclusion, including specialised training; amend national legislation on exemptions from compulsory education for children with disabilities, including children with physical and intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, with high support requirements, ensuring that all children with disabilities can exercise their right to education;

(c) Improve the curricula and teaching methods provided to mainstream education teachers on the rights of children with disabilities to inclusive education and on inclusive education methods of teaching;

(d) Ensure that mainstream schools are fully accessible and provide reasonable accommodation for all types of disabilities, particularly for deaf pupils and students with hearing impairments;

(e) Ensure access to inclusive tertiary education, including vocational and higher education, for children and adults with disabilities.

Health (art. 25)

55. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The interpretative declaration to article 25 in which healthcare professionals may determine which healthcare is provided solely on medical grounds;
- (b) The lack of measures taken to ensure that the will and preference and the right to self-determination of persons with disabilities are respected in all medical procedures;
- (c) Reports of undue influence of women undergoing prenatal screening (NIPT) for the detection of the impairment of a fetus;
- (d) The waiting time for persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities, to receive health services, and the lack of effective government measures to reduce waiting time;
- (e) The insufficient knowledge of professionals in healthcare facilities, especially concerning non-visible impairments, and the resulting unsuitable treatment or assessment of non-standard behaviour, as well as the persistence of negative stereotypes in regard to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities among healthcare providers, leading to disparities in treatment and care;
- (f) The barriers for persons with disabilities in accessing appropriate healthcare services, especially for persons with intellectual disabilities, due to the complicated system and the required digital skills, and the differences in quality, availability of and access to healthcare services between municipalities.

56. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Withdraw the interpretative declaration to article 25 so that persons with disabilities can experience their full right to healthcare;**
- (b) Ensure that medical interventions are based on the will and preference of persons with disabilities and respect their right to self-determination;**
- (c) Ensure that pregnant women undergoing prenatal screening for the detection of the impairment of a fetus can make fully informed decisions on their pregnancy without undue influence;**
- (d) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, persons with disabilities still living in institutions and children and women with disabilities, have access to healthcare services on a timely basis, reduce waiting time to access health-care services and increase community-based mental healthcare services;**
- (e) Provide comprehensive training for healthcare professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities and the requirement for accessibility and reasonable accommodation in all aspects of health-care provision, as well as on recognition, understanding, and treatment of different types of impairments; implement mandatory training programs for healthcare providers to improve their awareness and attitudes towards persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, addressing negative stereotypes and promoting a more inclusive and respectful approach;**
- (f) Improve accessibility to healthcare services and offer assistance to persons with disabilities and their families in navigating the healthcare system.**

Habilitation and rehabilitation (art. 26)

57. The Committee is concerned about barriers faced by persons with disabilities when returning home after surgery or in relation to physiotherapy, due to the expensive and complicated system.

58. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention, and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take

measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology, within their community, and in all parts of the State party.

Work and employment (art. 27)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The high incidence of unemployment among persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and young persons with disabilities, as well as the continued discrimination in payment mechanisms for persons with disabilities with "reduced work capacity";

(b) The discrimination and barriers that persons with disabilities face in their employment, including denial of reasonable accommodation and the lack of measures to ensure the accountability of employers in the public and private sectors for not respecting the targets for employment of persons with disabilities;

(c) The use of the term "occupational disability" to refer to persons with disabilities;

(d) The continued use of the medical model to promote the employment agenda for persons with disabilities as evidenced in the use of sheltered workshops as a mean of employing persons with disabilities.

60. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organization:

(a) **Review the national legislation to address systemic and structural barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, young persons with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and take measures to increase the number of persons with disabilities in the open labour market;**

(b) **Enforce the implementation of the agreements for the targets of employment for persons with disabilities in both the public and the private sectors, and strengthen measures to ensure the accessibility and provision of reasonable accommodation in workplaces, including raising awareness among employers about their obligations and providing resources to facilitate the provision of reasonable accommodations;**

(c) **Amend the legislation to make appropriate reference to persons with disabilities instead of using the term "occupational disability" in the labour market;**

(d) **Take all necessary steps to align programmes, policies and legislation in the labour market to reflect the human rights approach to disability, including the current practice of sheltered workshops.**

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

61. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The disproportionately high risk of poverty among persons with disabilities, the lack of measures to address poverty among persons with disabilities and the lack of regular studies examining the systemic causes of the intersection of poverty and disability to adequately inform governmental policies and plans, using the human rights model to disability; and the lack of data collection about poverty, income-inequality and homelessness;

(b) The lack of information on the number of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, who have benefited from the homelessness programme;

(c) Information indicating that the combined income of the household determines the level of social benefits received by persons with disabilities and the amount of their

personal contributions for long-term social allowances, limiting access to social benefits by persons with disabilities, in particular young persons with disabilities.

62. **Recalling links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Address the increased risk of poverty among persons with disabilities and mainstream disability into all studies, research, policies and plans related to poverty reduction, using the human rights model of disability;**

(b) **Ensure equal access to persons with disabilities to homes for homeless persons, especially to persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and develop comprehensive, multi-disciplinary programs for homeless individuals tailored to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;**

(c) **Ensure that disability is the main factor in the recognition and calculation of assistance for disability-related expenses, social allowances for and personal contributions required from persons with disabilities, avoiding means- tested household benefits.**

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

63. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The interpretative declaration to Article 29, which provides an interpretation of assistance that leads to a denial of reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities;

(b) The low participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life, including in election campaigns;

(c) The continued lack of accessibility of the voting procedure, including the physical inaccessibility of polling stations and booths and the lack of accessible information.

64. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:**

(a) **Withdraw its interpretative declaration to art. 29 of the Convention and amend the legislative frameworks to include assistance as a form of reasonable accommodation in order ensure the human rights of all persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Develop and ensure the implementation of measures to promote the effective and full participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life on an equal basis with others, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and to stand for elections, and access to high-level decision-making positions at national, regions and municipal levels, and increase their participation in public services by taking into account indicator 16.7.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals;**

(c) **Ensure the accessibility of voting material and polling stations across all regions and municipalities, as well as of election campaigns, including by providing support measures for persons with intellectual disabilities through alternative and augmentative modes of information.**

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

65. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accessibility of some cultural, recreation, leisure and sport facilities and the shortcomings in increasing the use of such facilities by persons with disabilities, especially persons with disabilities with high support requirements and children with disabilities;

66. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, strengthen measures to encourage and facilitate the use and the**

accessibility of cultural, recreation, leisure and sport facilities by persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities.

C. Specific obligations (arts. 31–33)

Statistics and data collection (art. 31)

67. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The shortcomings in the collection and publication of data on the situation of persons with disabilities across the entire state party including the Caribbean Netherlands and across all areas of life, including health, education, employment and the justice system;

(b) The lack of disaggregated data, including in relation to the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, persons with disabilities under temporary protection, children with disabilities (in particular concerning education), women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions.

68. **The Committee recommends that the State party use the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on functioning and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, promote inclusivity and improve disability data collection systems, with data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, urban or rural location and migrant, refugee or asylum-seeking situation, and:**

(a) **Develop a comprehensive national disability data framework to ensure appropriate, nationally consistent measures for the collection, interpretation and public reporting of disaggregated data on the full range of obligations under the Convention, across the entire state party, including the Caribbean Netherlands, and that in its collection of disaggregated data, the State party fully respect its privacy legislation.**

(b) **Ensure appropriate disaggregated data collection including with respect to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, ethnic and racialized minorities, refugees and stateless persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, persons with disabilities under temporary protection, children with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions.**

International cooperation (art. 32)

69. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a systematic and coordinated strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the international cooperation activities of the State party, with the full involvement of persons with disabilities, including with regard to the European Consensus on Development;

(b) The general lack of systemic and active involvement of and close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, in its international cooperation activities.

70. **The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, and:**

(a) **Develop a systematic and coordinated strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its international cooperation activities, including with regards to the European Consensus on Development;**

(b) Establish measures to ensure the active involvement and close consultation of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design, development, monitoring and evaluation of strategies and programmes on international cooperation.

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

71. The Committee acknowledges that the State party has an ‘A’ status accredited National human rights institute that is compliant with the Paris Principles. However, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a systematic method of coordination amongst the various focal points that the State party has established to implement the Convention;

(b) The lack of mechanisms to ensure the involvement of representative organisations of people with disabilities from the Caribbean Netherlands in monitoring the Convention.

72. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee¹³, the Committee recommends that the State party, with the active involvement and close consultation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including women and children with disabilities:

(a) Establish a systematic method of coordination among the various focal points designed to implement the Convention;

(b) Develop mechanisms to ensure full and effective involvement and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the Caribbean Netherlands in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

IV. Follow-up

Dissemination of information

73. The Committee emphasizes the importance of all the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. With regard to urgent measures that must be taken, the Committee would like to draw the State party’s attention to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12, on general principles and obligations, 36 on freedom of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and 54 on education.

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

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

76. The Committee requests the State party to disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, and to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in national and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats, including Easy Read, and to make them available on the government website on human rights.

¹³ CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, Annex.

Next periodic report

77. Under the simplified reporting procedure, which is the default procedure adopted by the Committee for periodic reports, the Committee will transmit to the State party a list of issues prior to reporting at least one year prior to 14 July 2030, the date by which the State party's combined second to fourth periodic reports are due. The replies of the State party to that list of issues will constitute its combined second to fourth periodic reports.
