

40th session of the Human Rights Council

Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities

Theme: Article 26 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on habilitation and rehabilitation

trilateral statement by Croatia, Slovenia and Austria

Mr. President,

I have the honour to read this statement on behalf of Austria, Slovenia and my own country Croatia. *We align ourselves with the statement of the EU.*

We thank the High Commissioner and the panellists for their presentations.

Our group remains committed to the goal of article 26 of the CRPD which allows persons with disabilities to keep or improve skills for daily life or to regain their skills i.e. enabling them to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life.

We continue to work on these issues in order to realize these objectives for persons with disabilities in our countries. In this vein, service delivery must meet the general principles in article 3 of the Convention which means that services should not discriminate on the basis of disability and should respect the equality between men and women as well as promote individual autonomy and ensure the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

We are grateful to the OHCHR for the guidance on the human rights-based approach to habilitation and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities and the recommendations for better implementation of the states' obligations provided in the report.

We also recognize the importance of actively involving and consulting both associations of persons with disabilities and non-governmental organisations dealing with health and rehabilitation issues when developing policies in this regard.

Furthermore, it is of special importance to us to work in our national legislations on abolishing the concept of full deprivation of legal capacity in order to satisfy the standards of the Convention. In this context, we underline that it is crucial to support people with disabilities actively in making decisions by their own. We also reflect on the persons with disabilities' independent living and inclusion in the community. It enables persons with disabilities to achieve their personal values and live full lives in interaction with others.

We would therefore like to ask the distinguished panellists if they have suggestions or examples of best practice of the models of independent living which provide the greatest possible degree of autonomy to the disabled person while providing them also with the help and services they may need.

Thank you