

Government Implementation of the Standard Rules As Seen By Member Organizations of Disabled Peoples' International - DPI

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Industrialized countries

The Danish Council of Organizations 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 Coordinadora Estatal de Minusvalidos Fisicos de Espana, Spain
Handikappförbundens Samarbetsorgan (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 Organizations of Disabled People, DPI, Czech

Republic
National Federation of Disabled Persons' Associations (MEOSZ), Hungary
National Diet of Disabled People, DPI, Poland
The National Organization of the Disabled in Romania, Romania
Alliance of Organizations of Disabled People, DPI, Slovak Republic

Latin America and the Caribbean

Barnod Inc. The National Organization 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, St 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 Organizations of the Disabled, Lesotho
Disabled Persons Association in Malawi, Malawi
National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda, Uganda

South, East Asia and the Pacific

China Disabled Persons Federation, China
DPI, India
National Federation of the Disabled, Nepal
National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, Philippines

Introduction

This report analyses the replies to the questionnaire sent not only to the governments of the UN Member States, but also to 600 national NGO's within the disability field. The number of responses from the NGO's was not as high as from the governments of Member States, representing, however, a very interesting material. In this report I will separate, among the total of 163 replies from NGO's, the 33 replies from Disabled Peoples' International (DPI). DPI does not represent any specific disabilities, being a cross-disability organization. It could be classified as an NGO for persons with disabilities, with somewhat more far-reaching claims than other ones.

Part I of this report presents and analyses the results from the NGO's belonging to DPI, which have answered the questionnaire. Each table corresponds to a specific question in the questionnaire (the number of the question is marked). For each question, after the presentation of the results comparisons are made between a) the results from the organization in question and the results, from the total of NGO's responding to the questionnaire, and b) the results from the organization in question and the replies from the governments. In this way we can locate the issues where convergence, or divergence, of views exists, between the particular NGO's and all the NGO's having responded to the questionnaire, and between the particular NGO's and the

governments.

The information in Part II is presented in a rather detailed form in order to expose the collected data of the responding NGO's.

The decision to send the questionnaire, not only to governments of the Member States, but also to NGO's of these states within the disability field, proved to be worthwhile. The different perspectives and views indicate a more complex picture of the degree of achievement of each country as to the implementing of the Standard Rules. When the government and one, or many, NGO's give the same answers there is a guarantee of the reliability of the received data, but when, on the other hand, the answers differ many questions arise. For instance: Who knows what about whom? Does the organization for the blind know the conditions for the mentally disabled? Is there a trend that governments give an idealizing description, while NGO's give a pessimistic one? The comparisons in this report are not aiming at indicating the greatest possible differences, but to find out the greatest possible achievements with the standards set out by the Rules. Yet, attention has to be paid to cases where the answers from one and the same country are not concordant. For several questions, the difference between the percentages reported by DPI organizations and governments is ten percent or more. What do such differences tell us?

The answers differ, now and then, on specific details on very essential issues, like what kind of services that are available, and what persons with disabilities are entitled to. That the answers differ, on issues such as the role of the co-ordinating committee, is rather evident, since it is a question of assessing, of evaluating a process between two or more parties. But in case of divergent answers about social and economic rights questions arise. Is there an information gap even among the most prominent spokesmen for persons with disabilities? Do organizations have too small resources in order to keep themselves well-informed? Or do the disability organizations work rather separately from each other; concentrating on their own, specific disability group, due to the complexity of the matter, that is 'disability', is it a too big an issue to keep record of?

The divergence is of course in many cases the result of a different perspective due to different roles: The government is the actor implementing policies within a wide range of issues, while NGO's are experts in a specific field, actors who therefore very well know what is happening in a limited area. The answers from the NGO's, can thus sometimes be the verification, or falsification, of the answers from the government. The government answer giving a more optimistic view than the answer from NGO's could depend on the fact that - being the responsible part for the implementation of policies, conventions and rules, such as the Standard Rules - the government wants to demonstrate that it has carried out its obligations.

By elaborating the specific replies of different NGO's, comparing the answers with the NGO's as a whole - a rather common procedure - and with the governments, one trait has emerged rather unexpectedly: that specific NGO's diverge on one or many issues with the NGO's in general but converge with the answer from the government. In order to explain this, and other interesting findings, further monitoring is needed.

Distribution of NGO's replies belonging to DPI, according to regions

Regions	Frequency	Percent
South, East Asia and the Pacific	4	12,1
Industrialized countries	13	39,4
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	18,2
The Middle East and North Africa	0	0,0
Sub-Saharan Africa	5	15,2
Countries in transition	5	15,2
Total	33	100,0

No replies from DPI organizations were received from the Middle East and North Africa.

General Policy

Table 1 (Question No. 1)

Number of DPI organizations reporting an officially recognized disability policy:

Disability policy expressed in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Having an officially recognized policy	24	82,8
Not having an officially recognized policy	5	17,2
Law	21	72,4
Guidelines adopted by the Government	19	65,5
Guidelines adopted by a disability council	9	31,0
Policy adopted by political parties	8	27,6
Policy adopted by NGO's	12	41,4

Total 29, No answer 4

The majority of DPI organizations are reporting an officially recognized disability policy. The majority of DPI organizations are reporting that disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines, adopted by the government. The replies from the NGO's generally exhibit the same pattern. There are no clear differences regarding the percentage of countries with an officially recognized disability policy. When compared with the responses from the governments, there is only one clear difference in the percentages reported, namely that DPI organizations report a considerably higher percentage regarding the policy adopted by NGO's.

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	6	3	9	2	-
Rehabilitation	8	10	2	-	1
Individual support	6	5	4	2	5
Accessibility measures	-	2	5	12	-
Anti-discrimination law	4	1	-	3	9

1 = very strong emphasis, 5 = very weak emphasis

According to DPI organizations, the strongest emphasis is on rehabilitation, while the weakest emphasis is on anti-discrimination law and accessibility measures. The pattern is the same as with the NGO's in general, and the governments. From the information available it can be concluded that, in the majority of the countries, the emphasis in disability policy still is on support to the individual, not on doing away with the obstacles in the environment.

Table 3 (Question No. 3)

Government action to convey the message of full participation

Conveying the message of full participation	Frequency	Valid Percent
DPI organizations reporting Gvt. action	14	45,2
DPI organizations reporting no Gvt. action	17	54,8

Total 31, No answer 2

There are 17 organizations out of 31 providing information on this issue, reporting that the governments have not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation, since the adoption of the Rules. There are no great differences in percentages reported, when compared with the NGO's in general, but great differences compared with those reported by the governments. For instance, 81% of the governments report that, since the adoption of the Rules, the government has initiated and supported information campaigns conveying the message of full participation. Is it possible that the NGO's could have missed the information campaigns? Could they have any interest in giving a poorer account of the governments' activities?

Legislation

Table 4 (Question No. 4)

Types of legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities

Types of legislation	Frequency	Valid Percent
Special legislation	4	12,1
General legislation	13	39,4
Special and general legislation	16	48,5

Total 33, No answer 0

As Table 4 shows, the most common type of legislation is a combination of special legislation

and general legislation, followed by general legislation, applicable to all citizens. Special legislation, specifically referring to disabled persons' rights, has not proved to be successful, although being nearest to the intentions of the Standard Rules. Though the pattern is the same compared with the NGO's in general, there is a clear difference regarding special legislation. The valid percentage for the NGO's in general is 23,6%, but 12,1% for DPI's. When compared with the responses from the governments, the DPI organizations report a higher percentage regarding general legislation and lower percentages regarding countries with a combination of special and general legislation. Consequently, DPI organizations are reporting more countries with a weak legal base, than the governments do.

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

Judicial/no-judicial mechanisms	Frequency	Valid Percent
Due process	21	72,4
Recourse procedure	4	13,8
Ombudsman	16	55,2
Governmental body (administrative)	14	48,3
Expert bodies	5	17,2
Arbitration/conciliation body	3	10,3

Total 29, No answer 4

As Table 5 shows, the majority of DPI organizations are reporting that mechanisms have been adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The most frequent judicial mechanism adopted is legal remedy through the courts, while the most frequent non-judicial mechanism is a governmental body (administrative). It is interesting to note that 16 countries out of 29 providing information on this issue, have an Ombudsman for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. There is a clear difference as regards the percentage of countries reporting that they have an ombudsman. The percentage reported from the NGO's in general is 36%, while the percentages reported by the governments regarding this issue is 28%. Otherwise, there are no clear differences between the governments and the DPI organizations.

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

DPI organizations reporting that general legislation does not apply with respect to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Education	3	11,5
Employment	6	23,1
The right to marriage	9	34,6
The right to parenthood/family	10	38,5
Political rights	9	34,6
Access to court-of-law	8	30,8
Right to privacy	9	34,6
Property rights	10	38,5

Total 26, No answer 7

As Table 6 shows, a considerable number of DPI organizations report that, in almost 40% of

the countries, general legislation does not apply to persons with disabilities with respect to the greater part of civil and political rights, except the right to education. The general legislation in almost all countries is applicable with respect to the right of education. It is also interesting to note that general legislation, in almost 80% of the countries applies with respect to the right of employment. The pattern is similar with the NGO's in general, with minor differences in the percentages reported. There are, however, clear differences when compared with the percentage reported by the governments. Again, we are confronted with one pessimistic and one more optimistic view.

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

DPI organizations reporting that the following benefits are not guaranteed by law:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Health/medical care	8	26,7
Rehabilitation	10	33,3
Financial security	14	46,7
Employment	17	56,7
Independent living	18	60,0
Participation in decisions affecting themselves	14	46,7

Total 30, No answer 3

According to DPI organizations, the rights less often guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities, are: independent living, employment, participation in decisions affecting themselves and the right to financial security. The right, most often guaranteed by law, is the right to health and medical care, though in almost 25% of the countries this is not the case. Regarding the right to employment, and comparing with question no. 6, you may infer that general legislation is not a sufficient guarantee for disabled persons' employment. Though, in ca 80% of the countries, there are no legal hindrances for disabled persons with regard to the right to employment, only in 50% of the countries this right is guaranteed by law. There are no clear differences compared with the NGO's in general, except regarding the right to participation in decisions affecting themselves. The percentage reported by the NGO's in general is 60%, while DPI report only 46.7%. DPI organizations report a considerably higher percentage of economic and social rights not guaranteed by law than those reported by governments in all of the above listed benefits, except regarding the benefit of right to participation in decisions affecting themselves.

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

Legislation on disability	Frequency	Valid Percent
DPI reporting enactment of new legislation	13	41,9
DPI reporting no enactment of new legislation	18	58,1

Total 31, No answer 2

As Table 8 shows, the majority of DPI organizations are reporting that no new legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules. In 42% of the countries, however, enactment of new legislation is reported. There are no clear differences compared with the percentages reported by the NGO's in general, neither with those reported by the governments.

Accessibility

Table 9 (Question No. 9)
Regulations to ensure accessibility in the built environment

DPI organizations reporting that:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Accessibility standards exist	23	71,9
Accessibility standards do not exist	9	28,1

Total 32, No answer 1

As Table 9 indicates, almost 30% of DPI organizations are reporting that no accessibility standards exist. The same pattern as generally with the NGO's, with no clear differences in the percentages, even when compared with government responses.

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

DPI organizations reporting accessibility in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Public places	20	87,0
Outdoor environment	15	65,2
Transportation	10	43,8
Housing	13	56,5
Accessibility standards do not exist	9	28,1

Total 32, No answer 1

As Table 10 indicates, the majority of DPI organizations are reporting that accessibility standards concerning public places exist, while accessibility standards concerning means of public transportation exist to a lesser extent. The same pattern prevails with the NGO's in general, with no clear differences in the percentages reported. There are, however, clear differences in the percentages, when compared with the government responses. DPI organizations report a lower percentage than the governments regarding accessibility in public places, outdoor environment, transportation and housing.

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

Accessibility in the built environment is observed by:	Frequency	Valid Percent
National authority	11	36,7
Local Governments	19	63,3
The constructor	6	20,0
The organizers/providers of the activities	4	13,3
No responsible body exists	8	26,7

Total 30, No answer 3

As Table 11 shows, 27% of DPI organizations are reporting that no responsible body exists to observe the accessibility in the built environment. Accessibility in the built environment, when existing, is most frequently observed by a national authority and by local governments. The same pattern prevails in replies compared with the NGO's in general. Compared with government responses there is only one difference, namely that DPI organizations report a

lower percentage regarding the supervision by the national authority of accessibility in the built environment.

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

Government measures promoted:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Levelling off pavements	17	68,0
Marking parking areas	17	68,0
Installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets	12	48,0
Ensure accessibility in public places	16	64,0
Improving accessibility in housing	11	44,0
Financial incentives/support for accessibility measures	15	60,0
Special lighting/contrast colours for visually impaired	5	20,0
Provision of specially adapted motor vehicles	15	60,0

Total 25, No answer 8

According to DPI organizations, the following measures to facilitate accessibility in the built 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 special lighting/contrast colours for visually impaired. There are great differences in the percentage reported, when generally compared with the NGO's. DPI organizations report a higher percentage regarding the following measures: levelling off pavements, financial incentives/support for accessibility measures and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Almost the same tendency can be discerned, when compared with the government responses. DPI organizations report a higher percentage than the governments concerning the following measures: levelling off pavements, ensuring accessibility in public places, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures and providing specially adapted motor vehicles.

Table 13 (Question No. 13)
Special transport system

Special transport is available for:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Medical treatment	18	78,3
Education	22	95,7
Work	17	73,9
Recreational purpose	20	87,0
No special transport system exists	8	25,8
Special transport exists	23	74,2

Total 31, No answer 2

Approximately 26% of DPI organizations are reporting that no special transport system exists. When special transport exists, in most countries it is available for education and for recreational purpose. Regarding the existence of special transport system, there are clear differences in the percentages, when compared with the NGO's in general. The percentage reported by the NGO's is 37,6%, compared with 74,2% by the DPI. There are also clear differences in the percentages

when compared with the government responses. DPI organizations report a lower percentage regarding the availability of special transport for medical treatment and work, but a higher percentage for recreational purpose. DPI also report a lower percentage than the governments regarding the non-availability of special transport.

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

Obstacles reported by DPI when building accessible environments:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Attitudinal factors	25	80,6
Economic/budgetary factors	22	71,0
Technical factors	8	25,8
Geographical and climatic factors	4	12,9
Lack of legislation and regulations	16	51,6
Lack of planning and design capacity	11	35,5
Lack of knowledge, research and information	18	58,1
Lack of user participation	10	32,3
Lack of co-operation from other organizations	14	45,2
Lack of enforcement mechanism	21	67,7

Total 31, No answer 2

As Table 14 shows, the three main obstacles reported by DPI organizations, when building accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors and lack of enforcement mechanism. It is remarkable that 81% of the DPI organizations are reporting attitudinal factors as the main obstacle, when building accessible environments. There are clear differences compared with the NGO's in general. DPI organizations are reporting a higher percentage regarding attitudinal factors, lack of knowledge, lack of co-operation and lack of enforcement mechanism. There are also clear differences, when compared with the government responses, in almost all of the listed obstacles, except regarding economic/budgetary factors. Regarding geographical and climatic factors, DPI organizations report a lower percentage.

Table 15 (Question No. 15)
Disability awareness component

Disability awareness in the training:	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a disability awareness component	13	40,6
There is not a disability awareness component	19	59,4

Total 30, No answer 3

The majority of DPI organizations are reporting that a disability awareness component is not incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. The same pattern prevails compared with the NGO's in general. There are no clear differences, even when compared with government responses.

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

The status of sign language as reported by DPI organizations:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Recognized as the official language	12	40,0
As the first language in education	2	6,7
As the main means of communication	4	13,3
No officially recognized status	12	40,0

Total 30, No answer 3

40% of DPI organizations report that sign language has no officially recognized status, while another 40% of the DPI organizations report that sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people. There is a clear difference compared with the NGO's in general. 29% of NGO's report that sign language has no officially recognized status. There are clear differences also when compared with government responses. DPI organizations are reporting a higher percentage regarding the recognition of sign language as the official language of deaf people than the governments, while they report a lower percentage regarding the recognition of sign language as the first language in education of deaf people.

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

Accessibility measures in media	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting accessibility measures	10	30,3
Reporting no accessibility measures	23	69,7

Total 33, No answer 0

As Table 17 shows, the majority of the DPI organizations are reporting that there are no accessibility measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities. The percentage reported here regarding the existence of accessibility measures are 10% lower, compared with the percentage reported by the NGO's in general. There are also clear differences, when compared with the government responses.

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

Public information services	Frequency	Valid Percent
Accessibility measures in information	8	24,2
No accessibility measures in information	25	75,8

Total 33, No answer 0

The majority of the DPI organizations report that there are no government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible for persons with disabilities. On this issue, there is no clear difference compared with the percentage reported by the NGO's in general. There are, however, clear differences, when compared with government responses. DPI organizations - and NGO's in general - are reporting a considerably lower percentage regarding the existence of accessibility measures in information.

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

Services to facilitate information/communication	Frequency	Valid Percent
Literature in Braille/tape	23	71,9
News magazines on tape/Braille	18	56,3
Sign language interpretation for any purpose	11	34,4
Sign language interpretation for major events	9	28,1
Easy readers for persons with mental disabilities	11	34,4
None	7	21,9

Total 32, No answer 1

As many as 22% of DPI organizations 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 are literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation, either for any purpose or for major events, while less often services such as easy readers for persons with disabilities are provided. The main difference compared with NGO's, is that DPI organizations are reporting a higher percentage regarding provision of easy readers for persons with mental disabilities, NGO's generally reporting 21%. There are clear differences also when compared with the percentages reported by governments. DPI organizations report a lower percentage concerning services such as literature in Braille/tape. They also give higher figures when none of the above mentioned measures are provided.

Organizations of Persons With Disabilities

Table 20 (Question No. 20)
National umbrella organization

National umbrella organization	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a umbrella organization	23	71,9
There is no umbrella organization	9	28,1

Total 32, No answer 1

As Table 20 shows, the majority of the DPI organizations are reporting that there is an umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities. There are only minor differences in the percentage reported, compared with NGO's in general. There are minor differences in the percentage reported also when compared with government responses.

Table 21 (Question 21)
Participation in policy making

Participation in policy-making	Frequency	Valid Percent
DPI organizations reporting participation	13	41,9
DPI organizations reporting no participation	18	58,1

Total 31, No answer 2

As Table 21 shows, 58% of the DPI organizations 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. Minor differences appear compared with the percentage reported by the NGO's in general. There are, however, clear differences when compared with the percentage reported by the government. DPI organizations report a lower percentage regarding participation in policy-making.

Table 22 (Question 22)

Consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities

Organizations are consulted:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	2	6,7
Sometimes	11	36,7
Often	10	33,3
Always	7	23,3

Total 30, No answer 3

Table 22 shows that a majority of the organizations report that consultations take place sometimes, while 7% of the DPI organizations are reporting that consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities never take place when laws, regulations and/or guidelines with a disability aspect are being prepared. The main difference in percentage compared with NGO's in general is that DPI organizations are reporting a higher percentage when consultations always are taking place. When compared with the governments, DPI organizations are reporting a higher percentage when consultations take place sometimes but a lower percentage when consultations with the organizations take place always.

Table 23 (Question 23)

Level of consultations

Level of consultations	Frequency	Valid Percent
National	26	89,7
Regional	13	44,8
Local	18	62,1

Total 29, No answer 4

Table 23 shows that consultations, when taking place, occur most frequently at the national level. Great differences appear in the percentage reported concerning the regional and local levels. The percentage reported by NGO's in general is almost 10% lower. There are also clear differences concerning the local level, when compared with government responses. DPI organizations report a considerably higher percentage.

Table 24 (Question 24)

Support to organizations of disabled people

Kind of support	Frequency	Valid Percent
Financial	22	75,9
Organizational/logistic	8	27,6
No support at all	5	17,2

Total 29, No answer 4

The majority of the DPI organizations are reporting that the government gives financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities. There are, however, 17% of the DPI organizations reporting that no support at all is given to organizations of persons with disabilities. Minor differences appear when compared with the percentage reported by the NGO's in general. There are clear differences, when compared with the government responses, concerning organizational/logistic support and where no support at all is provided. In the former case, DPI organizations report a lower percentage but a higher one, where no support to the organizations

is given.

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	22	4	2
Legislatures	22	4	3
Judiciary	25	1	1
Political parties	19	7	2
NGO's	5	6	17

1 and 2 = limited extent
3 = some extent
4 and 5 = great extent

Table 25 shows that the majority of DPI organizations are reporting that persons with disabilities to a very limited extent participate in government, legislatures, judicial authorities and political parties but to a great extent in NGO's. The pattern is the same as that reported by the NGO's in general, even when compared with government responses.

Table 26 (Question 26)
The role of organizations

Areas in which organizations are involved	Frequency	Valid Percent
Advocating rights and improved services	32	97,0
Mobilize persons with disabilities	29	87,9
Identify needs and priorities	29	87,9
Participate in the planning, implementation	23	69,7
Contribute to public awareness	33	100,0
Provide services	24	72,7
Promote/organize income generating activities	19	57,6

Total 33, No answer 0

Table 26 shows that organizations are foremost involved in advocating rights and improved services, contributing to public awareness, mobilizing persons with disabilities and identifying needs and priorities. DPI organizations report that the area in which they are least involved is participating in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities and promoting/organizing income generating activities. Nonetheless, the rates in all areas concerning organizational involvement are high implying that the DPI organizations apprehend their role to involve a wide range of tasks. The same pattern prevails as with NGO's in general. There are minor differences in the percentage reported. The same pattern prevails even when compared with government responses. No clear differences in the percentages are reported.

Co-ordination of Work

Table 27 (Question 27)
Co-ordinating committee

Co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a co-ordinating committee	21	65,6
There is no co-ordinating committee	11	34,4

Total 32, No answer 1

Table 27 shows that the majority of the organizations belonging to DPI report the existence of a co-ordinating committee. However, 34% report that there is no such committee. Minor differences in the percentage are reported when compared with NGO's in general, as also when compared with the government responses.

Table 28 (Question 28)
Where the co-ordinating committee is reporting

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
A particular Ministry	14	73,7
The Prime Minister's office	3	15,8
Other	2	10,5
There is no co-ordinating committee	11	34,4

Total 30, No answer 3

According to the DPI organizations, the authority to which the co-ordinating committee is usually reporting, to is the Ministry of Social Affairs or any other Ministry. Minor differences in the percentage are reported, when compared with NGO's in general, as well as when compared with government responses.

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

Representatives of:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Ministries	20	95,2
Organizations of persons with disabilities	16	76,2
Other NGO's	10	47,6
Private sector	4	19,0
There is no co-ordinating committee	11	34,4

Total 32, No answer 1

According to the DPI organizations, 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. The same pattern prevails when compared with the NGO's in general, with minor differences in the percentage reported. But, regarding representation of the private sector in the co-ordinating committee, there are clear differences in the percentage reported, when compared with government responses.

Table 30 (Question 30)
Participation in policy-development

Involvement of the co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Participation in policy development	16	80,0
No participation in policy-development	4	20,0
There is no co-ordinating committee	11	34,4

Total 31, No answer 2

Table 30 shows that 80% of the DPI organizations are reporting that the co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in policy development. There are only minor differences in the percentage reported, when compared with those reported by the NGO's in general. There are clear differences in the percentage reported, when compared with the governments. DPI organizations are reporting a lower percentage regarding involvement of the co-ordinating committee 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	8	44,4
Reporting no performance of other tasks	10	55,6
There is no co-ordinating committee	11	34,4

Total 29, No answer 4

44% of the DPI organizations are reporting that the committee is expected to perform other tasks. The percentage reported by the NGO's in general is 57,1. There are clear differences when compared with government responses. DPI organizations are reporting a lower percentage regarding performance of other tasks.

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

Effects	Frequency	Valid Percent
Improved co-ordination of programmes	10	62,5
Improved legislation	7	43,8
Improved integration of responsibility	7	43,8
Better dialogue in the disability field	10	62,5
More accurate planning	6	37,5
More effective use of resources	4	25,0
Improved promotion of public awareness	7	43,8
Too early for assessment	5	31,3
There is no co-ordinating committee	11	34,4

Total 27, No answer 6

Among others, the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee, according to the DPI organizations, are involved co-ordination of measures/programmes and better dialogue in the disability field. 31% of the DPI organizations report that it is too early for assessment regarding the effects of the co-ordinating committee. There are only minor differences in the percentage reported when compared with NGO's in general. There are clear differences in almost all of the effects listed above - except regarding more accurate planning - when compared with the government responses. DPI organizations report a lower percentage when compared with those reported by the governments.

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

The effects of the Standard Rules	Frequency	Valid Percent
DPI organizations reporting rethinking	11	39,3
DPI organizations reporting no rethinking	17	60,7

Total 28, No answer 5

Table 33 shows that 39% of the DPI organizations are reporting that the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. 61% of the DPI organizations report that it has not lead to a rethinking and this figure is much higher than the one reported by the NGO's in general. When compared with the percentage reported by the governments, the percentage of no rethinking is also considerably higher in DPI organizations.

Conclusion

A broad convergence of views exists, in twelve areas, between DPI organizations, the NGO's in general and the governments. Regarding a number of questions - question 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, 15, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28 - there is no significant divergence.

Nonetheless, divergent views are manifest on a number of important issues between DPI organizations and governments but only to a lesser degree between DPI organizations and NGO's in general. Divergence in views is more frequent between DPI organizations and governments than between DPI organizations and NGO's in general.

There are also a number of areas, where divergent views exist between DPI organizations, NGO's in general and governments. However, even if there is a divergence in most of the areas, it is not found over the whole range of issues in these areas.

Industrialized countries

The Danish Council of Organizations of Disabled People, Denmark

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law (though not in a general clause, disability, however, being included in various legal texts), in guidelines adopted by the government and in policy adopted by NGO's. According to the Government's reply, disability policy in Denmark is also expressed in guidelines adopted by the Government but not in law. The Government claims that disability policy equally emphasizes rehabilitation, individual support and accessibility measures. The emphasis in this policy is on prevention, rehabilitation, individual support and accessibility measures. Anti-discrimination is not emphasised.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has done the following in order to convey the message of full participation: The UN Standard Rules have been translated into Danish and distributed, and a brochure about the UN Standard Rules has been published. The Minister of Housing has set up a committee with representatives from 6 other ministries the task of which, is to draw up a national access plan before 1 October this year.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is the right to administrative appeal. Non-judicial mechanisms include: an Ombudsman, a governmental body (administrative) and independent expert bodies (The National Centre for Equal Opportunities). According to the Government, there is no governmental body (administrative) in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities..

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, the 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 themselves. According to the Government, the benefit of participation in decisions affecting themselves is not guaranteed by law to disabled people. In addition, no public service is denied to persons with disabilities. If this should happen, such discrimination would be sharply criticised by the Ombudsman and in the media.

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

Accessibility

There are building regulations for all new buildings requiring that public places, and housing are made accessible. According to the Government, laws and regulations to ensure accessibility in the built environment are not sufficient. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments and by the constructor. According to the Government, accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. The following measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for accessibility measures in housing and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport for persons with disabilities includes door to door transport by small accessible buses, one trip per week, being the average in the counties. Special transport is available for medical treatment and for recreational purpose. It is not available for education and work. The Government states that special transport is available also for education and work. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, there are many obstacles but the Government does not specify the most difficult of them. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. Some courses, however, are now offered to the students, on a voluntary basis.

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 to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided, though not to a sufficient degree, 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 and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization, The Danish Council of Organizations of Disabled People, with 27 member organizations, covering all groups of disabled people. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local level. The government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties, but to a great extent in NGO's. The Government did not provide any answer concerning the extent of participation of persons with disabilities. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities 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 concerning the lives of persons with disabilities and contribute to public awareness. According to the Government, organizations also provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Parliament (Folketinget) and to the Government. The committee includes representatives of many ministries and of organizations of persons with disabilities. In addition, the National Association of Local Authorities in Denmark and The Association of County Councils have one member each. 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 integration of responsibility and a better dialogue in the disability field. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee has also improved legislation and promoted public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has not yet led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. However, it has raised awareness and will no doubt play a major role in all future activities in the disability field. The implementation of the UN Standard Rules is the overall objective and the yardstick by which everything is going to be measured from now and in the future.

**Groupement Francais des Personnes Handicapées, DPI,
France**

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the government. According to the Government disability policy is expressed only in law. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on rehabilitation, individual support, prevention, accessibility and 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 special legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman, a governmental body (administrative) and a special arbitration/conciliation body. According to the Government, there are no non-judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of disabled people.

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, the right to privacy and to property rights. According to the Government, general legislation does not apply to the right of 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, participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government, the benefits of health and medical care, 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 rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local authorities and by the constructor. The Government states that accessibility is observed by a national authority and by local governments. The following measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring accessibility in public places, improving accessibility in housing and providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing. According to the Government, measures such as levelling off pavements and marking parking areas have not been promoted. There is a special transport available for medical treatment, education, employment and for recreational purpose. According to the Government, there is no special transport system. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors 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.

There are no 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 others: literature in Braille/tape and news magazines on tape/Braille. According to the Government, sign language interpretation for major events is also being provided.

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. Consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities take place at both 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 a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judiciary, political parties, but to a great extent in NGO's. According to the Government, disabled people participate only to some extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is 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

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

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

DPI, Germany

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 NGO's. According to the Government, the officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law and in policy adopted by political parties. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on rehabilitation, prevention and individual support. Anti-discrimination law does not exist.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation. The Government states having by various measures, conveyed the message of full participation, e.g. by translation of the Rules into German and by their dissemination to organizations.

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 due process (legal remedy through courts). The non-judicial mechanism is an ombudsman. According to the Government, non-judicial mechanisms also include a governmental body (administrative) and commissioners at different levels.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage and the right to parenthood/family. According to the Government, general legislation also applies with respect to other rights such as political rights, access to court-of-law, the right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment and independent living. The benefit of participation in decisions affecting themselves is difficult to apply, even for persons without any mental disability. The Government states that this benefit is applicable to a restricted extent, but only for persons with mental disabilities.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the amendment against discrimination of persons with disabilities, Article 3 in the Constitution, was enacted.

Accessibility

There are rules concerning accessibility only for new official buildings. According to the Government, there are laws and regulations requiring accessibility even in public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transportation and housing. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments, by the constructor and by the organizers/providers of the services. The following measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: financial incentives/support for accessibility measures when building or renovating housing and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government, even other measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment such as installing lifts and accessible toilets and improving accessibility in housing. Special transport is available for education and recreational purpose. Special transport is available also for medical treatment and work, according to the Government. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. But, according to the organization, this is only mentioned and therefore not effective.

Sign language has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language of deaf people and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. The Government states that there is no need for an official recognition of sign language. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The Government, however, states that such measures exist. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape and news magazines on tape/Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no 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. The Government states that such provisions exist. Organizations of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. The Government states that the organizations of disabled people are frequently consulted. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local level. The government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties and NGO's. According to the Government, disabled people participate to a great extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities and contribute to public awareness. Organizations also provide services, according to the Government.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, of Employment and of organizations for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, it also includes representatives from other NGO's and from the private sector. The government expects the

co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. The establishment of the committee has not had any effects. According to the Government, the establishment of the co-ordinating 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 Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

National Confederation of Disabled People, Greece

General policy

The national disability policy is 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. According to the Government, disability policy is not expressed in guidelines adopted by a national disability council. The emphasis in this policy in descending scale - is on rehabilitation, individual support, prevention, accessibility measures and 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. The Government states that by means of information campaigns in mass media and in proposed legislation being enacted, it 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 the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts), whereas the non-judicial mechanism for that purpose is 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, the right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, employment and participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government, even the benefits of training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security and independent living are guaranteed to persons with disabilities. The Government adds, however, that even if legal provisions exist, the implementation of these rights is constrained by insufficient available resources.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules. According to the Government, a special law dealing with the organization of welfare services has been enacted.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea, air transportation and housing are made accessible. According to the Government, there are no design standards requiring that housing is made accessible. There is no responsible body to ensure accessibility in

the built environment. The following measures have been promoted by the government to ensure accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets and improving accessibility in housing. The Government states that no measures have been taken to install lifts and accessible toilets or to improve accessibility in housing. However, specially adapted motor vehicles are provided. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation 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 has no officially recognized status nor is it used as the first language in education of deaf people. However, it is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. According to the Government, sign language is not even recognized as the main means of communication between deaf people and others. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The Government, however, states that there are such measures both regarding media and public information services. 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 and sign language interpretation being available only for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where sixteen 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. Disability organizations are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national and local levels. The government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in judicial authorities and NGO's, but to a great extent in government, legislatures and political parties. According to the Government, disabled people participate only to some extent in Government and political parties. 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 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.

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

DPI, Japan

General policy

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

NGO's. The Government states that disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures, prevention and anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has conveyed the message of full participation by means of the adoption of a long range plan.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. According to the Government, the rights of disabled people are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation.

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

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

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and means of public transport are made accessible. According to the Government, there are standards requiring that even housing is made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. The following measures have been promoted by the government to ensure accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government, even special lighting and contrast colours are used in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment and a lot of other measures, not even listed in the questionnaire, are indicated by the Government. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities available for medical treatment, education, employment and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language 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 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, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation, for major events. According to the Government, sign language interpretation is provided 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. Disability organizations are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the 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, legislatures, judicial authorities and political parties and to a great extent in NGO's. According to the Government, disabled people participate only to some extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities 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 concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness and provide services. According to the Government, disabled persons organizations even promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Prime Minister's office. It includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, and of scholars. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee also includes representatives of other NGO's, the private sector, and labour unions. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee is also expected to perform other tasks, such as monitoring and implementation of policies. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation and more accurate planning. The Government states that the establishment of the co-ordinating committee has also led to 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, to a certain extent, has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

National Disability Council, Netherlands

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, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGO's. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law.

In order to convey the message of full participation, the government has:

- translated and disseminated the Standard Rules.
- is financially supporting the member organizations of the national disability council for information campaigns.
- has initiated a research project for the necessity of a non-discrimination act including disabled people.
- has integrated most of the main basic principles of the Standard rules in the long term programme for an intersectoral policy for the disabled (Beyond Limitations) 1995-1998.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism includes the regular legal procedures and appeal possibilities, i.e. due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include an ombudsman, a governmental body (administrative) and independent expert bodies.

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, the right to privacy and property rights. However, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, property rights are limited regarding persons with severe mental disabilities. The right to privacy as well, is limited in a number of institutions/nursery homes etc. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling and financial security. According to the Government, even the right for disabled people to participate in decisions affecting themselves, is guaranteed by law.

The Act, Provisions for the Disabled, was enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority, by local governments and also by local organizations of the disabled and the elderly (voluntary basis). The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: 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 and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements, as they are formalized in the provisions for the Disabled Act (WVG), oblige municipalities to provide facilities for transport of disabled citizens mainly within the municipality (either by collective transport or by "cash payments" for - wheelchair-taxi-use, or by paying the costs of adaptations of the private car). There are experiments with accessible long-distance transport (low floor with kneeling-systems) being subsidized. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary 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 has no officially recognized status but is used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. However, the privatized Royal Telecom has special services and provisions for the disabled, and the government sometimes subsidizes programmes etc. dealing with awareness of/for the disabled. According to the Government, there are no 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 others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. In addition, electronic reading of daily newspapers (via computers) and text-telephone services for communication with and between deaf people are also available.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. According to the Government, there are two umbrella organizations in Netherlands. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. However, an agreement/decreed, which established the Interministerial Steering Group on policies for the disabled, an advisory body of the Dutch government and her standing commissions, includes regular consultations - also in the process of legislation - with the umbrella organizations of the disabled. Also the important Ministries for the disabled (Ministries of housing, of Environment, of Education, of Social Affairs and of Transport) have regular consultations with the umbrella organizations. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national, regional and local level. The government gives financial and consultative support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, to some extent in legislatures and political parties and to a great extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities 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 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 several ministries and to the sub-council of the Cabinet. The committee includes representatives of several ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGO's. According to the Government, no representatives of persons with disabilities or of other NGO's are included in the co-ordinating committee. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, like exchange of information, discussion of major issues, identification of gaps in the legislation as well as efforts to try to eliminate obstacles within the responsibility of the government. 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 effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

The Standard Rules have not been thoroughly discussed yet in the national co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, the adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Associacao Portuguesa de Deficientes, Portugal

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law. According to the Government, the officially recognized disability policy is also expressed 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 NGO's. The Constitution has an Article concerning the rights of persons with disabilities. The emphasis in this policy is on prevention, accessibility measures, rehabilitation and individual support. There is no emphasis on anti-discrimination law. The Government, however, states that the main emphasis in disability policy lies on anti-discrimination. The Portuguese Health service in the last few years, has developed a policy on prevention. According to opinion of the organization, this policy is independent of the rehabilitation policy, which in fact is non-existing. There is only one Rehabilitation Centre in Portugal.

The government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation. According to the Government, the following actions have been taken in order to convey the message of full participation: the National Secretariat for Rehabilitation has discussed the issue of full participation and has printed a Portuguese version of the Standard Rules, which has been disseminated. In addition, TV and RADIO campaigns stressed the message, included in the Standard Rules.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. According to the Government, the rights of disabled people are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation.

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

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

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. According to the Government, there are guidelines to ensure accessibility in public buildings, the outdoor environment and means of public transportation. Accessibility is observed by a national authority and by local governments. Special transport arrangements are available for education and work. Special transport is not available for medical treatment or for recreational purpose. The organization states that there are only two accessible buses in Lisbon, serving only disabled persons' functioning, as a discriminatory service. According to the Government, special transport is also available for medical treatment and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity and lack of knowledge research and information. The Government is adding some other obstacles too: economic/budgetary factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of user participation 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 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. According to the Government, sign language is used as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is literature in Braille/tape. According to the Government, even other services are provided: news magazines on tape/Braille, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities and sign language interpretation being available 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 or to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, there are such legal provisions. Disabled people are represented at the National Council of Rehabilitation. Organizations of

persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations are often consulted. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, even organizational/logistic and juridical and technical support is given to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties but to a great extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, contribute to public awareness and provide services. According to the Government, organizations of disabled people even promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGO's and from the private sector. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee is expected also to perform other tasks. It is too early for assessment about the effects of the co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, 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 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. The Government states that the adoption of the 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.

Confederacion Coordinadora Estatal de Minusvalidos Fisicos de Espana, Spain

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council and in policy adopted by NGO's. According to the Government, policy is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the Government. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on prevention, anti-discrimination law, individual support, accessibility measures and rehabilitation. According to the Government, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination is the least emphasized in disability 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 special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman, and a

governmental body (administrative). According to the Government, there is also a special arbitration/conciliation body.

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 and property rights. According to the Government, general legislation also applies with respect to the right to 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 themselves.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules. The Government states that several laws concerning disability have been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility in the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. According to the Government, accessibility is also observed by a national authority. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. There is special transport for persons with disabilities, available for medical treatment and education. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, there is such a component.

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. According to the Government, 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 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 deaf persons and others: literature in Braille, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation for major events. According to the Government, sign language interpretation is available for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities being equally provided.

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 of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local level. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states also giving organizational/logistic support to organizations of disabled people. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons

with disabilities 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 concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities. According to the Government, organizations do not promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Finance, of Health and Social Affairs and of Education. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee is also expected to perform other tasks.

Handikappförbundens Samarbetsorgan (HSO), Sweden

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 NGO's. The emphasis in this national policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law.

The government has given ten million SEK in order to support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation. The Government also refers to other actions taken in order to convey the message of full participation: translation of the Standard Rules in Swedish, entrusting the Disability Ombudsman with the task of disseminating and promoting the Rules in Sweden and making the Standard Rules available in Braille, cassette tapes and in an easy-to-read form.

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 due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman and a governmental body (administrative). According to the Government, non-judicial mechanisms also includes national/regional supervision.

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 and to property rights. According to the Government, general legislation also applies to the right to privacy. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security and independent living. According to the Government, even the benefit of employment and of participation in decisions affecting themselves, are guaranteed by law to disabled people.

The following laws have been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules: The Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with certain Functional Impairments (LSS) and the Assistance Benefit Act (LASS). The Government also refers to other Acts enacted since the adoption of the Rules: the Act concerning the Disability Ombudsman; the Act concerning 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.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that housing is made accessible. According to the Government, there are standards requiring even that public places, the outdoor environment and means of transportation are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments and by the constructor. According to the Government, accessibility is observed also by a national authority states. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, improving accessibility in housing, giving financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for 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 user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, there are two obstacles for building accessible environments: economic/budgetary factors and lack of knowledge, research and information. 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 of deaf people, 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 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 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

There is a national umbrella organization, (some ten organizations are not represented). There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, there are such legal provisions. Disability organizations are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations, when taking place, occur at both the national, regional and local levels. The government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judiciary system, and political parties but to a great extent in NGO's. 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 measure and contribute to public awareness. According to the Government, organizations also provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

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

On the issue whether the adoption of the standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach

to disability policy, the organization states: "we hope that". According to the Government, the Rules, although being very close to the Swedish disability policy, are an important and appropriate instrument for developing policy in this field.

Neurologiskt Handikappades Riksförbund (NHR), Sweden

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in guidelines adopted by the government, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGO's. According to the Government, disability policy is also expressed in law. The emphasis in this national policy - in descending scale - is on anti-discrimination law, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures and individual support. According to the Government, anti-discrimination law is given less emphasis than the NGO is indicating.

According to the organization, the government has not done anything since the adoption of the Standard Rules, conveying the message of full participation. According to the Government, since the adoption of the Rules, the following measures have been taken: translating the Rules in Swedish; entrusting the Disability Ombudsman with the task of disseminating and promoting the Rules in Sweden; and making the Rules available in Braille, cassette tapes and in an easy-to-read form.

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 due process (legal remedy through courts). The non-judicial mechanism for that purpose is an Ombudsman. According to the Government, non-judicial mechanisms also include a governmental body (administrative) and national/regional supervision.

The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government, even the benefit of employment is guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules, two laws have been enacted: LSS, LASS. According to the Government, the following acts have also been enacted: the Act concerning the Disability Ombudsman, the Act concerning Pilot Project with Parental Influence on School Attendance of Children with Mental Retardation, and an amendment in the Act concerning Suitable Public Transport to Persons with Disabilities.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that housing is made accessible. According to the Government, there are rules requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and means of transportation are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments and by the constructor. According to the Government, accessibility in the built environment is also observed by a national authority. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to

public places, improving accessibility in housing, giving financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, using contrast colours for visually impaired, and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport system is available for: education, work and for recreational purpose. According to the Government, special transport is also available for medical treatment. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of planning and design-capacity and lack of enforcement mechanism. The obstacles mentioned by the Government for building accessible environments are economic/budgetary factors and lack of knowledge. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

There are government measures to encourage 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 any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

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 or to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, there are such legal provisions. Disability organizations are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local levels. The government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judiciary system, to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGO's. 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 and provide services. According to the Government, organizations also promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

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

The adoption of the Standard Rules has so far not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. According to the Government, although the Rules are expressing views close to its disability policy, they are important and appropriate instrument for developing policy in this field.

Hörselskadades Riksförbund (HRF), Sweden

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in guidelines adopted by the government. According to the Government, the officially recognized disability is also expressed in law, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGO's. The emphasis in this national policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, accessibility measures and prevention.

The government has given ten millions SEK for information campaigns in order to convey the message of full participation. The Government states having taken the following actions in order to convey the message of full participation: translated the Rules in Swedish; entrusted the Disability Ombudsman to disseminate and promote the Rules in Sweden; and made the Rules available in Braille, cassette tapes and published them in an easy-to-read form.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. According to the Government, the rights of disabled persons are protected both by general and special legislation. There are no judicial mechanisms to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman and various specialized bodies in for instance employment, the provision of technical aids and EU matters. According to the Government, the judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of disabled people is due process (legal remedy through courts). The non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman, a governmental body (administrative) and national/regional supervision. The Government, however, does not refer to other specialized bodies.

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 themselves. According to the Government, even financial security and employment are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Standard Rules. The Government refers to several laws 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 Pilot Project with Parental Influence and an amendment in the Act concerning Suitable Public Transport to Persons with Disabilities.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places (schools, hospitals, clinics etc.) are made accessible. According to the Government, there are laws to ensure accessibility even in the outdoor environment as well as means of transportation and housing. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments and by the constructor. Accessibility is also observed by a national authority, as the Government states. The following measures have been promoted by the government to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing and the installation of tele-loops for hearing impaired. According to the Government, even the following measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired, and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, technical factors and lack of knowledge, research and information. According to the Government, the foremost obstacle is economic/budgetary 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, is also 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 to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and

communication between persons with disabilities and others: sign language interpretation being available for any purpose, other services provided except those enumerated in the questionnaire are: relay services, interpretation for deafened adults and subtitling TV.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a 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. Disability organizations are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local levels. The role of disability organizations is 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 promote/organize income generating activities. According to the Government organizations also advocate rights and improved services and they provide services.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Health. According to the Government, there is no national co-ordinating committee in Sweden. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of: Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Transport, Education and Culture. The committee does not include representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities, from other NGO's, or from the private sector. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development.

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

Riksförbundet för Mag- och Tarmsjuka (RMT), Sweden

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the government. According to the Government, the disability policy is also expressed in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGO's. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

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. The Government refers to many actions, undertaken in order to convey the message of full participation: translation of the Rules in Swedish, entrusting the disability Ombudsman with the task of disseminating and promoting the Rules in Sweden and making the Rules available in Braille, cassette tapes and in an easy-to-read form.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. According to the Government the rights of persons with disabilities are protected both by general legislation and special legislation. The judicial mechanism available for the protection of the rights of persons

with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman and independent expert bodies. According to the Government, non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman, a governmental body (administrative) and national/regional supervision.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, right to privacy and property rights. The government states that general legislation also applies to the right to marriage, to the right to parenthood/family, political rights and access to court-of-law. 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 concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules. According to the Government, however, the following laws have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules: the Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with certain Functional Impairment, the Assistance Benefit Act, the Act concerning the Disability Ombudsman and the Act concerning Suitable Public Transport to Persons with Disabilities.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea, air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. According to the Government, accessibility in the built environment is also observed by the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the government to facilitate accessibility in the built 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 persons with disabilities, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. 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 and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. However, it is used as the first language in education of deaf people. According to the Government, 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 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 for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

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. Disability organizations are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local levels. The government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states supporting of only financially organizations of persons with disabilities. 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 and provide services. According to the Government, organizations also promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to a particular Ministry. According to the Government, there is no national co-ordinating committee in Sweden. The committee includes representatives only of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. 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, 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.

ASKIO, Switzerland

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 NGO's. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on rehabilitation, individual support, prevention, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has conveyed the message of full participation, through the social insurance system. The Government, however, states that it has not done anything to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected through general legislation. The institutional mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is the "Tribunal fédéral des assurances". Non-judicial mechanisms include: an Ombudsman and a governmental body (administrative).

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

Accessibility

In certain Cantons there are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish standards requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. According to the Government, there are laws and regulations, in all the Cantons, requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, public transportation and housing are made accessible.

Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local authorities. According to the Government, accessibility is also observed by the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling of pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, providing financial support for accessibility measures in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport includes subsidized transport by the state, available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when building accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design capacity and lack of knowledge, research and information. According to the Government, there is only one obstacle, when building accessible environments: economic/budgetary factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. The Government states that there is no such component.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people. According to the Government, sign language has no officially recognized status. 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 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. According to the Government, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities are not provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur 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, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties, but to a great extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities 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 concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness and provide services. According to the Government, organizations also promote/organise income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, there is no national co-ordinating committee. The committee includes representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGO's. 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 led to a better dialogue in the disability field, but not to improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources or improved promotion of public awareness.

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

Countries in transition

The Board of Representatives from the Organizations of Disabled People, DPI, Czech Republic

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government and in policy adopted by NGO's. The emphasis in this policy is on prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, individual support and anti-discrimination law.

The government has conveyed the message of full participation through media campaigns. The Government states that, the message of full participation is conveyed by the Plan of Actions for the Handicapped Persons adopted in 1993.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. According to the Government, 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 due process (legal remedy through courts). The non-judicial is 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, the right to privacy and to property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

The following laws have been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules: Social Security Law, Accessibility Law, New Evaluation System of Status of Health Sheltered Workshops System. According to the Government, the legislation of the Czech Republic is being changed to a large extent. Even laws and regulations which may concern disability include special articles, applying to persons concerned.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transport (regulations are prepared now) and housing are made accessible. According to the Government, there are no regulations requiring that housing is made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments and by the organisers/providers of the activities. According to the Government, accessibility in the built environment is observed only by local governments. The following measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the built 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 for adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and

providing specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government, measures such as levelling off pavements, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets and improving accessibility in housing have not been promoted. Special transport arrangements include free transport, based on the level of impairment. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language 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. However, sign language is taught at the university level and courses are organized for interpreters by NGO's. According to the Government, the right of deaf children to be educated by means of sign language is guaranteed by law. There are government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible to persons with disabilities, but there are no government measures to make other forms of information services accessible to persons with disabilities. The Government states that there are no measures to encourage media 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 major events and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. According to the Government, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities are not provided.

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 of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations of disabled people are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states, that it only gives financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judicial authorities, to some extent in government, legislatures, political parties but to a great extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities 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 and promote/organize income generating activities. According to the Government, organizations do not promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to a central body, chaired by the Prime Minister. The committee includes representatives of some Ministries and of organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, the committee also includes representatives from the private sector. The government expects the 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, a better dialogue in the disability field and improved promotion of public awareness. According to the Government, other effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee are improved legislation and more effective use of resources.

The adoption of the Rules has in part led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. The Government states that the adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking, the philosophy expressed in the Rules being already involved in the Resolutions of the Czech Government.

National Federation of Disabled Persons' Associations (MEOSZ), Hungary

General policy

There is no officially recognized policy. According to the Government, the officially recognized disability policy in Hungary is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the government. The emphasis lies on 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 legislation and general legislation. According to the Government, the rights of persons with disabilities are protected only by general legislation. There is no judicial mechanism to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The non-judicial body for that purpose is an Ombudsman. According to the Government, the judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). Non-judicial bodies also include a special arbitration/conciliation body.

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, the right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, financial security and participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government even the benefit of training, rehabilitation and counselling is guaranteed by law.

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

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring (for the new constructed buildings) that public places are made accessible. According to the Government, there are even standards requiring that the outdoor environment is made accessible. No responsible body exists for observing accessibility in the built environment. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: marking parking areas, providing financial support for adapting housing to the needs of persons with disabilities and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport includes subsidized transport for the blind and, in some cities or towns, for the physically disabled. Otherwise the physically disabled receive a yearly subsidy (a very small amount) for transportation. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education , work and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, technical factors, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of co-operation from other

organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, the foremost obstacle, when building accessible environments, is 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 for deaf people. According to the Government, 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 no 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 others: literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation being available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. According to the Government, 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 of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations are often consulted. Consultations occur at the national level. Consultations occur also at the regional and local levels, according to the Government. The government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties and to a great extent in NGO's. According to the Government, disabled people participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, political parties and NGO's but to some extent in judicial authorities. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is 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. According to the Government, organizations do not promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

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

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

National Diet of Disabled People, DPI, Poland

General policy

There is no comprehensive disability policy. According to the Government, the officially recognized disability policy in Poland is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government and in policy adopted by political parties. Disability policy equally emphasizes prevention, rehabilitation and anti-discrimination law, less emphasis being on individual support and accessibility measures.

The Ministry of Labour has translated the Standard Rules in order to convey the message of full participation. The Government also refers to other actions, such as information campaigns in the media.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. There is no judicial mechanism to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The non-judicial mechanism adopted is a special arbitration/conciliation body. According to the Government, the judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of disabled people includes due process (legal remedy through courts). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include: an Ombudsman and a governmental body (administrative). The only benefit guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities is employment. According to the Government, even the benefits of health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves are guaranteed by law to disabled people.

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

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that the outdoor environment and housing (only new buildings) are made accessible. According to the Government, there are rules requiring that even public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. The only measure promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment is financial support, for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, even the following measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport is available for all purposes. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, 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 mechanism. According to the Government, there are two obstacles when building accessible environments: attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, there is such a component.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, 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. According to the Government, 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 no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. According to the Government there are such measures. 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 sign language interpretation, being available only for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization including 100 member organizations. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are

being prepared. According to the Government, however, disability organizations are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. The views of the organizations are taken into account at the national level. According to the Government, their views are taken into account even at the local levels. The government financially supports organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, organizations receive even organizational/logistic support. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties but to some extent in NGO's. According to the Government, organizations participate to some extent in Government, legislatures, judiciary and to a great extent in political parties and NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is 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. According to the Government, organizations also participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of disabled people.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body. According to the Government, the national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. The committee includes representatives from several Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, from other NGO's and from the private sector. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks.

The National Organization of the Disabled in Romania, Romania

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law. The emphasis in this policy is on individual support.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns, conveying the message of full participation. The Government states that it has taken action to convey the message of full participation through mass-media, working meetings, seminars etc.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. According to the Government, the rights of persons with disabilities are protected both by general legislation and special legislation. There is no judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The non-judicial mechanism available is a governmental body (administrative).

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities only with respect to education. According to the Government, general legislation applies also with respect to employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, the right to privacy and property rights. The only benefit guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities is health and medical care. According to the Government, even other benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities such as training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security,

employment, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

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 built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, land, sea, air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority. Even local governments are responsible for observing accessibility in the built environment, according to the government. Special transport arrangements include free local urban transport and 12 inter-city trips/year for severely disabled. The most difficult obstacle, when planning to build accessible environments is political will. According to the Government the most difficult obstacles are attitudinal factors and lack of knowledge, research and information. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, there is no such component.

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. According to the Government, sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. According to the Government, there are such measures. No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others. According to the Government 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 for any purpose, and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The Organizatia Nationala A Persoanelor cu Handicap din Romania (ONPHR) is the new "umbrella" organization, a National Assembly with 48 members, NGO's of the disabled from all over the country, representing all types of disability. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, there are such legal provisions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are never consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect. are being prepared According to the Government, organizations are always consulted. No support is given by the government to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states, that it gives both financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties but to a great extent in NGO's. According to the Government, persons with disabilities do not participate at all in government, legislatures, judiciary and political parties. The role of organizations of disabled persons is 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. According to the Government, organizations also participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures but they do not promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee, however, not reporting to a particular Ministry or a central body. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee is reporting to the

State Secretariat for Handicapped Persons. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries and of organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, the committee also includes representatives of other NGO's, the private sector and local administration. The government does not expect the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development or to perform other tasks. According to the Government, the committee is expected to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has not led to any effects. According to the Government, the establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to 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.

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

Alliance of Organizations of Disabled People, DPI, Slovak Republic

No reply was received from the Government of Slovak Republic.

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 NGO's. The emphasis in this policy is on prevention, rehabilitation, individual support, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law.

In 1994, a government committee for disabled people published the Standard Rules in Slovak language and distributed them to NGO's, in order to convey 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 procedure (legal remedy through courts). There is no administrative or any other non-judicial body for that purpose.

General legislation does not apply to persons with mental disabilities 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 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.

Since the adoption of the Rules, regulations have been issued in the sphere of action to make the physical environment accessible and to provide access to information and communication as well as in the sphere of employment.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. The following measures have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the built

environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensure access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, installing special lighting for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport includes bus, microbus or special taxi. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism. 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 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 others: 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 a national umbrella organization, including 18 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 of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national and local level. The government financially supports organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judicial authorities and political parties, to some extent in government and legislatures and to a great extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities 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 and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Slovakia. The committee includes representatives from many Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, from other NGO's and from social and health insurance organization. The government does not expect the 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 legislation and a better dialogue in the disability field.

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

Latin America and the Caribbean

Barnod Inc. The National Organization of the Disabled, Barbados

General policy

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has established a National task force on Disability Policy. This National Task Force is responsible for drafting a national policy document. The government has also allocated a sum of money for the establishment of a Disability Unit. These are measures taken, in order to convey the message of full participation. According to the Government, 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.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. There are not any judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman and a governmental body (administrative). General legislation does not apply to persons with different disabilities.

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

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. They establish national design standards requiring accessibility in public places and the outdoor environment. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities which are available for education. According to the Government, special transport is also available for medical treatment, work and recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation 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 main means of communication between deaf persons and others. However, it has no officially recognized status. According to the Government, sign language is also recognized as the official language of deaf people and is also used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are government measures to encourage media to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. But, there are no measures to encourage other forms of public information services to make their services accessible. There are no services provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others. The Government refers to the following services provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: 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. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy making or to work with governmental institutions. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judiciary, political parties and NGO's. According to the Government, disabled people participate to a great extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities. According to the Government, organizations do not promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, there is a national co-ordinating committee, reporting to the Ministry of Community Development and Labour. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries and of organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government expects the committee to participate in policy development, adding, however, that it is too early for an assessment of its effects.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. A task force has been specifically established to produce a draft policy.

Fondo Nacional de la Discapacidad, Chile

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government and in guidelines adopted by the national disability council. The emphasis in this policy is on individual support, rehabilitation, prevention and accessibility measures. According to the Government, there is no officially recognized disability policy.

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has conveyed the message of full participation, by means of campaigns and seminars.

Legislation

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

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

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

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transport, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, ensuring access to public places and improving accessibility in housing. According to the Government, even the following measures have been promoted: installing lifts and accessible toilets, providing financial incentives for accessibility measures in housing and tax exceptions, when importing specially adapted motor vehicles. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, there are special transport systems including reduced prices in public transport and being offered for whatever purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical 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 incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language 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 measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The Government states that there are such measures. 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. According to the Government, sign language interpretation is available for any purpose.

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 development or to work with governmental institutions. The Government states that there are such legal provisions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local level. No support is given by the government to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities and to some extent in political parties and NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, 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 provide services. According to the Government, organizations also promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Planning. It includes representatives from many Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, and from 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, 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 not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

DPI, Costa Rica

No reply was received from the Government of Costa Rica.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in guidelines adopted by the government and in guidelines adopted by the national disability council. The emphasis in this policy is on 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 general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities includes due process (legal remedy through the courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency, dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman.

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

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and local governments. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations and lack of knowledge, research and information. 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 to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. 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. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national and regional level. The government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties, and to some extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

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

Asociacion Cooperativa del Grupo Independiente pro Rehabilitacion Integral, El Salvador

No reply was received from the Government of El Salvador.

General policy

The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, accessibility measures, prevention, anti-discrimination law, individual support.

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 is no judicial mechanism to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Non-judicial bodies include a governmental body (administrative). The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling.

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

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. The only measure promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment is the ensuring of access to public places. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf person and others. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. 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 or to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the local level. The government supports organizations of persons with disabilities through technical assistance. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial, authorities, political parties. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities 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 concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public

awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministerio de la Presidencia. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Employment, Education, Planning, of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGO's. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment concerning the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

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

Fenadip, Peru

General policy

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

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

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities only with respect to the right to privacy. According to the Government, general legislation also applies with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law and 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 themselves.

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

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. According to the Government, there are rules to ensure accessibility also in housing. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local authorities. According to the Government, accessibility in the built environment is observed also by a national authority and by the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off

pavements and ensuring access to public places. According to the Government, even measures such as marking parking areas and installing lifts and accessible toilets have been promoted. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. The most difficult obstacle, when planning to build accessible environments, is attitudinal factors. According to the Government, even other factors constitute obstacles for building accessible environments: 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 incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language has no officially recognized status. According to the Government, sign language is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. No measures are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others. According to the Government, the following measures 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, and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

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 of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations of disabled people are always consulted. Consultations occur at the local level. The government gives organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties and NGO's. According to the Government persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Education. The Government states that the co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Health and to the Council of Ministries. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, of Employment, and of Education, of organizations of persons with disabilities and from the private sector. According to the Government, the committee only includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Employment, and from the private sector. The committee is expected to perform other tasks. The committee is not expected to participate in policy-development, according to the Government. It is too early for an assessment about the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

The adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. According to the Government, the adoption of the Rules has lead to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability 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. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). There are no administrative or other non-judicial bodies.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, political rights, access to court of law and the right to privacy. According to the Government, general legislation only applies with respect to employment and access to court-of-law. The only benefit guaranteed by law is health and medical care. According to the Government, no benefits are guaranteed by law to disabled people.

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

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. According to the Government the only measure promoted in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment is the levelling off pavements. Special transport includes school bus for children with disabilities, available for education and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, lack of legislation and regulations and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, the foremost obstacle is economic/budgetary factors. 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. There are no 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 others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. According to the Government, the only services provided to persons with disabilities are sign language interpretation for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

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 or 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 occur at the local level. No support is given by the government to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in political parties and NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is 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.
The adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Fédération des Associations des Personnes Handicapées du Benin, Benin

No reply was received from the Government of Benin.

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability 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.

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

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. No responsible body exists to ensure accessibility in the built environment. There are no special transport arrangements to ensure accessibility in the built environment. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity and lack of knowledge, research and information. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is recognized as the official language in education 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 to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. None of the following measures is 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 or easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is 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 and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

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

Associação de Apoio aos Deficientes , Cape Verde

No reply was received from the Government of Cape Verde.

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability 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.

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

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. No responsible body exists to ensure accessibility in the built environment. There are no special transport arrangements to ensure accessibility in the built environment. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity and lack of knowledge, research and information. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is recognized as the official language in education 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 to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. None of the following measures is 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 or easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is 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 and contribute to public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

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

Lesotho National Federation of Organizations of the Disabled, Lesotho

No reply was received from the Government of Lesotho.

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 the courts). There are no administrative or other non-judicial bodies for that purpose.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, and political rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: training, rehabilitation and counselling, and employment.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the law on General Building Control was amended.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places are made accessible. There are no standards requiring that the outdoor environment, means of public transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. 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, 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 mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities.

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 of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislatures. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities 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 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 Health and Social Welfare. The committee includes representatives of Health and Social Affairs, of organizations of persons with disabilities, and of other NGO's. The government does not expect the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development or to perform other tasks.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy, such as guidelines being formulated and presented to the government for policy development.

Disabled Persons Association in Malawi, Malawi

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation. The Government states that, since the adoption of the Rules, a National Co-ordinating committee on Disability Issues was formed. The committee is interministerial/multi-sectoral, with the aim of influencing the implementation of the Rules.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. According to the Government, 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. The non-judicial mechanism available is a governmental body (administrative). According to the Government, the judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial mechanisms also include a Law Commissioner.

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, the right to privacy and property rights. No benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities. According to the Government, the only benefit guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities is training, rehabilitation and counselling.

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

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. No responsible body exist for ensuring accessibility in the built environment. No measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary 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 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 to encourage 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 (though very limited). According to the Government, even other services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation, being available 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 or to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, there are such legal provisions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are never consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations of disabled people are often consulted. No support is given by the government to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states that it gives both financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations of disabled people. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties, NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is 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 Cabinet Committee on the Disabled. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Welfare. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGO's. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, e.g. to represent views of persons with disabilities in various national and international forums. It is too early for an assessment concerning the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

The adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. According to the Government, the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy and to the amending of the Handicapped Persons Act.

National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda, Uganda

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation. The Government states that, since the adoption of the Rules, a National Co-ordinating committee on Disability Issues was formed. The committee is

interministerial/multi-sectoral, with the aim of influencing the implementation of the Rules.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. According to the Government, 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. The non-judicial mechanism available is a governmental body (administrative). According to the Government, the judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial mechanisms also include a Law Commissioner.

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, the right to privacy and property rights. No benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities. According to the Government, the only benefit guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities is training, rehabilitation and counselling.

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

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. No responsible body exist for ensuring accessibility in the built environment. No measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary 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 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 to encourage 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 (though very limited). According to the Government, even other services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation, being available 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 or to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, there are such legal provisions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are never consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations of disabled people are often consulted. No support is given by the government to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states that it gives both financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations of disabled people. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties, NGO's. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is 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 Cabinet Committee on the Disabled. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Welfare. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGO's. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, e.g. to represent views of persons with disabilities in various national and international forums. It is too early for an assessment concerning the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

The adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. According to the Government, the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy and to the amending of the Handicapped Persons Act.

South, East Asia and the Pacific

China Disabled Persons Federation, China

Exactly the same reply was received from the Government of China.

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, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGO's. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on anti-discrimination law, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures and 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 promoting of the Rules in mass media.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation 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.

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, the 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 themselves.

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 to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by national authority, by local governments and by disabled persons' organizations. The following measures have been promoted by the government to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, ensuring access to public places and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements include the following: urban public transport free for the blind and buses provided for disabled persons in welfare factory. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. In addition, public transportation is free for the blind, wherever they travel. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, 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 recognized as the official language of deaf people and is used as the first language in education of deaf people. Furthermore the government acts for promoting a unified Chinese sign language. There are government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. 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 in which all associations of all the disability groups are represented, such as the blind, the deaf, the physically disabled, the mentally and the psychologically disabled. 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 occur 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, legislatures, judiciary, political parties and NGO's. 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 concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities. In addition, the organizations represent and serve disabled persons, also taking 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, of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGO's. The government expects the 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 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 strengthens the national legislation and promotes the implementation of the policies.

DPI, India

No reply was received from the Government of India.

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, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGO's. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on anti-discrimination law, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures and 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 promoting of the Rules in mass media.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation 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.

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, the 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 themselves.

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 to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. Accessibility in the built

environment is observed by national authority, by local governments and by disabled persons' organizations. The following measures have been promoted by the government to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, ensuring access to public places and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements include the following: urban public transport free for the blind and buses provided for disabled persons in welfare factory. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. In addition, public transportation is free for the blind, wherever they travel. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, 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 recognized as the official language of deaf people and is used as the first language in education of deaf people. Furthermore the government acts for promoting a unified Chinese sign language. There are government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. 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 in which all associations of all the disability groups are represented, such as the blind, the deaf, the physically disabled, the mentally and the psychologically disabled. 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 occur 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, legislatures, judiciary, political parties and NGO's. 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 concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities. In addition, the organizations represent and serve disabled persons, also taking 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, of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGO's. The government expects the 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 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 strengthens the national legislation and promotes the implementation of the policies.

National Federation of the Disabled, Nepal

No reply was received from the Government of Nepal.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in 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 legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include a Human Rights Commission.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to access to court of law. No benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities.

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. The only measure promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment, is the provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements include for: railways - concessions for all categories of disabilities, air - only for those with visual impairment and for senior citizens, road - varies from state to state in the Indian Union. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions 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 has no officially recognized status. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. No measures 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. 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 sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national and local level. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judiciary, political parties and in NGO's. 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 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 Welfare. The committee

includes representatives only from the Ministries. The government does not expect the committee to participate in policy development or to perform other tasks.

In a way yes, the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, Philippines

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, in guidelines adopted by the national disability council and in policy adopted by NGO's. According to the Government, disability policy is not expressed in policy adopted by NGO's. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law and individual support.

By means of new legislation and information campaigns the government 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 mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities are due process (legal remedy through the courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency, dealing with anti-discrimination issues. The administrative and other non-judicial bodies include an ombudsman and a commission on Human rights. According to the Government, the judicial mechanism does not include recourse procedure by a special agency, dealing with anti-discrimination issues. The non-judicial mechanisms, however, only 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, the right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: training, rehabilitation and counselling, and participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government, even the benefits of health and medical care and employment are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities.

New legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules. The Government states, however, that no legislation has been enacted.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transportation are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority, by local governments and by the United Association of Architects. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas and ensuring access to public places. There are no special transport arrangements. According to the Government, special transport arrangements include a discounted fare program for persons with disabilities available for any kind of travel. The most difficult obstacles, when

planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language 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 to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The Government states that such measures exist. The only measure provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is sign language interpretation, available for any purpose. According to the Government, even literature in Braille/tape is provided.

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. Disability organizations are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. According to the Government consultations occur also at the regional and local levels. The government gives technical support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states even financially supporting organizations of disabled people. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judiciary, political parties, to some extent in government and legislatures, and to a great extent in NGO's. 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 concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Development. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGO's, and representatives from the private sector. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee does not include representatives from the private sector. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. 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 accurate planning, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.
