

Government Implementation of the Standard Rules As Seen By Member Organizations of Inclusion International (ILSMH)

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Industrialized countries

National Council on Intellectual Disability, Australia
Association Nationale d'Aide aux Handicapés Mentaux, Belgium
Förbundet de Utvecklingsstördas VI, Finland
Kehitysvammaisten Tukiliitto r.y., Finland
Lebenshilfe, Inclusion International, Germany
Norwegian Association for Mentally Retarded, Norway
Federacao Nacional Cooperativas Educacao Rehabilitacao Crianças Inadaptadas (Fenacerci), Portugal
Riksförbundet för Utvecklingsstörda Barn, Ungdomar och Vuxna, Sweden
Fédération Suisse des Associations de Parents de Handicapés Mentaux, Switzerland
MENCAP, United Kingdom
American Association on Mental Retardation, USA

Middle East and North Africa

Cyprus Parents Association for Mentally Disabled Persons, Cyprus
Christos Steliou Ioannou Foundations, Cyprus
AKIM, Inclusion International, Israel
Young Muslim Women's Association, Centre for Special Education, Jordan
Inclusion International, Lebanon
Association des Parents et Amis d'Enfants Inadaptés, Morocco
Inclusion International, United Arab Emirates

Countries in transition

National Association for People with Mental Handicap, Albania
National Society for Support of People with Mental Handicap, Bulgaria
Inclusion International, Croatia
Sdruzeni pro Pomoc Mentalne Postizenym, ILSMH, Czech Republic
Estonian Mentally Retarded Persons Support Organization, Estonia
Ertelmi Fogyatekosok Orszagos Erdekvedelmi Szövetseg (ÉFOÉSZ), Hungary
Lithuanian Welfare Society for Persons with Mental Disability, Lithuania
Polish Association for Persons with Mental Handicap, Poland
Rehabilitation Centre of Disabled Children Having Cerebral Palsy and Spinal Cord Pathologies, Republic of Belarus
Association of Parents of Children with Handicap, Republic of Belarus
"Actrakhan" Association, Russia
National Association for Mentally Handicapped of Slovenia, Slovenia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Federacao Nacional das APAEs, Inclusion International, Brazil
Sociedad pro Ayuda del Nino Lisiado, Chile
Inclusion International, Costa Rica
Fundacion Dominicana para Ninos con Necesidades Especiales, Dominican Republic
Centre d'Education Speciale, Haiti
Asociacion de Padres de Familia con Hijos Discapacitados, Nicaragua
Inclusion International, Mexico

Sub-Saharan Africa

Association des Parents et Amis d'Enfants Encéphalopathes du Burkina Faso, Burkina Faso
APEHM, Inclusion International, Cameroon
Association Nationale des Personnes Handicapées Mentales du Congo, Congo
Association des Parents et Amis des Jeunes Handicapés Mentaux de Madagascar, Madagascar
Association des Amis et Parents d'Enfants Handicapés Mentaux de Madagascar, Madagascar
Association Mauritanienne pour la Promotion des Handicapés Mentaux, Mauritania
S.A. Federation for Mental Health, South Africa
Zimcare Trust, Zimbabwe

South, East Asia and the Pacific

National Forum for Welfare of the Mentally Handicapped, India

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 NGOs within the disability field. The number of responses from the NGOs was not as high as from the governments of Member States. However, it represents a very interesting material. In this report I will separate, among the total of 163 replies from NGOs, the 46 replies from Inclusion International (ILSMH).

Part I of this report presents and analyses the results from the NGOs belonging to ILSMH, 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 NGOs 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 NGOs and all the NGOs having responded to the questionnaire, and between the particular NGOs 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 NGOs.

The decision to send the questionnaire, not only to governments of the Member States, but also to NGOs 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, NGOs give the same answers there is a guarantee for 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 NGOs 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 ILSMH 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 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 NGOs are experts in a specific field, actors who therefore very well know what is happening in a limited area. The answer from the NGO can thus sometimes be the verification, or

falsification, of the answer from the government. The government answer giving a more optimistic view than the answer from the NGOs 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 NGOs, comparing the answers with the NGOs as a whole - a rather common procedure - and with the governments, one trait has emerged, rather unexpectedly: that specific NGOs diverge on one or many issues with the NGOs 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 NGOs belonging to ILSMH, according to regions

Regions	Frequency	Percent
South, East Asia and the Pacific	1	2,2
Industrialized countries	11	23,9
Latin America and the Caribbean	7	15,2
The Middle East and North Africa	7	15,2
Sub-Saharan Africa	8	17,4
Countries in transition	12	26,1
Total	46	100,0

The region with most responses from ILSMH organizations is the one of countries in transition, followed by industrialized countries. The region which is clearly underrepresented is the South, East Asia and the Pacific. Compared with NGOs in general the number of respondents from ILSMH organizations are higher than from NGOs in general as regards the Middle East and North Africa.

General Policy

Table 1 (Question No. 1)

Number of ILSMH organizations reporting an officially recognized disability policy:

Disability policy expressed in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Having an officially recognized policy	39	90,7
Not having an officially recognized policy	4	9,3
Law	30	69,8
Guidelines adopted by the Government	21	48,8
Guidelines adopted by a disability council	22	51,2
Policy adopted by political parties	9	20,9
Policy adopted by NGO's	23	53,5

Total 43, No answer 3

As Table 1 shows, the majority of ILSMH organizations are reporting an officially recognized disability policy. The majority of ILSMH organizations are reporting that disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines, adopted by a disability council. The replies from the NGOs

generally exhibit the same pattern. There are no clear differences regarding the percentage of countries with an officially recognized disability policy. There are, however, clear differences when compared with the percentages reported by the governments. ILSMH organizations report a lower percentage regarding guidelines adopted by the government, while they report a higher percentage regarding guidelines adopted by a disability council and concerning the policy adopted by NGOs.

Table 2 (Question No. 2)
The emphasis of disability policy

Emphasis in national policy	Number of RI org. indicating respective emphasis				
	1	2	3	4	5
Prevention	7	4	8	5	6
Rehabilitation	19	13	2	3	1
Individual support	9	9	8	3	3
Accessibility measures	-	6	7	12	3
Anti-discrimination law	4	2	4	5	12

1 = very strong emphasis, 5 = very weak emphasis

According to ILSMH organizations the strongest emphasis is on rehabilitation while the weakest emphasis is on anti-discrimination law and accessibility measures. The same pattern prevails as with the NGOs in general. The government responses also display the same pattern and there are no differences concerning the percentages.

Table 3 (Question No. 3)
Government action to convey the message of full participation

Conveying the message of full participation	Frequency	Valid Percent
ILSMH organizations reporting Gvt. action	19	42,2
ILSMH organizations reporting no Gvt. action	26	57,8

Total 45, No answer 1

As Table 3 shows, there are 26 organizations out of 45 providing information on this issue, reporting that the government has not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns, conveying the message of full participation, since the adoption of the Standard Rules. There is no great differences in percentages reported, when compared with the NGOs in general. There are, however, clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by the governments. ILSMH organizations report a considerably lower percent regarding a government action undertaken in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

Table 4 (Question No. 4)
Types of legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities

Types of legislation	Frequency	Valid Percent
Special legislation	10	23,3
General legislation	10	23,3
Special and general legislation	23	53,3

Total 43, No answer 3

As Table 4 shows, the most common type of legislation is to use a combination of special legislation and general legislation. There is, however, according to ILSMH organizations a high percent of countries where the rights of persons with disabilities are protected only by general legislation. Though the pattern is the same compared with the NGOs in general, there is a clear difference regarding the percentage of countries which only have general legislation. The valid percent for the NGOs in general is 32,5%. When compared with the figures reported by the governments, the percent concerning general legislation is on the same level. There are, however, differences regarding special legislation, where the percentage reported by ILSMH organizations is higher and concerning a combination of special and general legislation, where the percentage reported by ILSMH organizations is lower than the percentage reported the by governments.

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

Judicial/no-judicial mechanisms	Frequency	Valid Percent
Due process	26	74,3
Recourse procedure	10	28,6
Ombudsman	15	42,9
Governmental body (administrative)	18	51,4
Expert bodies	5	14,3
Arbitration/conciliation body	3	8,6

Total 35, No answer 11

As Table 5 shows, the majority of ILSMH 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 15 countries out of 29 providing information on this issue, have an Ombudsman in order to protect 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 NGOs in general is 36%. When compared with the percentage reported by the governments, ILSMH organizations report a higher percent concerning recourse procedure by a special agency, dealing with anti-discrimination issues and concerning the Ombudsman.

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

ILSMH organizations reporting that general legislation does not apply with respect to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Education	1	2,5
Employment	10	25,0
The right to marriage	18	45,0
The right to parenthood/family	20	50,0
Political rights	20	50,0
Access to court-of-law	12	30,0
Right to privacy	17	42,5
Property rights	20	50,0

Total 40, No answer 6

As Table 6 shows, there is a considerable number of ILSMH organizations reporting that general legislation does not apply to persons with disabilities with respect to: the right to parenthood/family; political rights; property rights; the right to marriage; the right to privacy. General legislation applies in almost all countries with respect to the right to education. It is also interesting to note that general legislation applies with respect to the right of employment in 75% of the countries. The same pattern prevails as with the NGOs in general with minor differences in the percentages reported, except regarding the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights and property rights, where the percentages are higher than for the NGOs generally. When compared with the governments, the ILSMH percentages are extremely higher concerning all the rights listed above (except the right to education, where the percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are lower). For instance, in 50% of the countries providing information on this issue there are persons with mental disabilities who do not have political rights.

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

ILSMH organizations reporting that the following benefits are not guaranteed by law:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Health/medical care	9	21,4
Rehabilitation	7	16,7
Financial security	17	40,5
Employment	26	61,9
Independent living	31	73,8
Participation in decisions affecting themselves	30	71,4

Total 42, No answer 4

According to ILSMH organizations, the following rights are less often guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves and employment. The right most frequently guaranteed by law is the right to health and medical care, though 21% of the reporting ILSMH organizations claim that this is not the case. Regarding the right to employment and comparing the percentage in question no. 6 it is obvious that general legislation is not a sufficient guarantee for the rights of disabled persons. Though, in ca 80% of the countries, there are no legal hindrances for disabled persons with regard to the right to employment, only 38% of the countries have this right guaranteed by law. There are no

clear differences compared with the NGOs in general except regarding the right to employment and the right to participation in decisions affecting themselves. Concerning these rights the percentages reported by ILSMH are much higher than generally for the NGOs. Only regarding the right to rehabilitation the percentage reported by ILSMH is lower than that generally reported by NGOs. When compared with the government responses the percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are considerably higher regarding all of the above mentioned benefits, except for the benefit of rehabilitation, where the percentages reported are almost the same.

Table 8 (Question No. 8)

New legislation concerning disability since the adoption of the Rules

Legislation on disability	Frequency	Valid Percent
ILSMH reporting enactment of new legislation	18	43,9
ILSMH reporting no enactment of new legislation	23	56,1

Total 41, No answer 5

As Table 8 shows, the majority of ILSMH organizations are reporting that no new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules. However, in 44% of the countries enactment of new legislation is reported. There are no clear differences compared with the percentages reported by the NGOs in general, neither compared with the percentages reported by the governments.

Accessibility

Table 9 (Question No. 9)

Regulations to ensure accessibility in the built environment

ILSMH organizations reporting that:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Accessibility standards exist	30	69,8
Accessibility standards do not exist	13	30,2

Total 43, No answer 3

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

Table 10 (Question No. 10)

Accessibility of the built environment

ILSMH organizations reporting accessibility in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Public places	28	93,3
Outdoor environment	20	66,7
Transportation	13	43,3
Housing	15	50,0

Total 43, No answer 3

As Table 10 indicates, the majority of ILSMH organizations are reporting that there are

accessibility standards concerning public places, while accessibility standards concerning means of public transportation exist to a lesser extent. The same pattern with the NGOs in general with no clear differences in the percentages reported. When compared with responses from the governments the percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are lower regarding accessibility in the 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	15	45,5
Local Governments	21	63,6
The constructor	7	21,2
The organizers/providers of the activities	4	12,1
No responsible body exists	5	15,2

Total 33, No answer 13

As Table 11 shows, 15% of ILSMH 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 local governments. The same pattern prevails in replies compared with the NGOs in general. When compared with the governments there are differences in the percentages reported by ILSMH organizations concerning supervision by national authority and concerning lack of a responsible body to observe accessibility in the built environment. In both cases the percentages reported are lower.

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

Government measures promoted:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Levelling off pavements	16	42,1
Marking parking areas	24	63,2
Installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets	19	50,0
Ensure accessibility in public places	24	63,2
Improving accessibility in housing	13	34,2
Financial incentives/support for accessibility measures	7	18,4
Special lighting/contrast colours for visually impaired	6	15,8
Provision of specially adapted motor vehicles	16	42,1

Total 38, No answer 8

According to ILSMH organizations the following measures to facilitate accessibility in the built environment are the most frequently promoted: marking parking areas, ensuring accessibility in public places and installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets. The measure least of all promoted is special lighting/contrast colours for visually impaired. There are no great differences in the percentage reported, when compared with the NGOs in general except regarding levelling off pavements and provision of financial support for accessibility measures,

where the percentage generally reported by NGOs is higher. When compared with government responses the percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are higher regarding improvement of accessibility in public places, but lower regarding accessibility in housing, financial incentives/support for accessibility measures and provision of special lighting/contrast colours for visually impaired.

Table 13 (Question No. 13)
Special transport system

Special transport is available for:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Medical treatment	19	86,4
Education	19	86,4
Work	17	77,3
Recreational purpose	16	72,7
No special transport system exists	20	47,6
Special transport exists	22	52,4

Total 42, No answer 4

Almost 48% of ILSMH organizations are reporting that no special transport system exists. When a special legislation exists, in most countries it is available for education and medical treatment. There are clear differences in the percentages, when compared with the NGOs in general regarding the existence of special transport system. The percentage reported by the NGOs is 37,6%. There are clear differences concerning the existence of a special transport system when compared with government responses. The percentage reported by ILSMH organizations is lower..

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

Obstacles reported by ILSMH when building accessible environments:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Attitudinal factors	34	73,9
Economic/budgetary factors	37	80,4
Technical factors	11	23,9
Geographical and climatic factors	2	4,3
Lack of legislation and regulations	22	47,8
Lack of planning and design capacity	16	34,8
Lack of knowledge, research and information	18	39,1
Lack of user participation	14	30,4
Lack of co-operation from other organizations	13	28,3
Lack of enforcement mechanism	24	52,2

Total 46, No answer 0

As Table 14 shows, the three main obstacles reported by ILSMH organizations, when building accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors, attitudinal factors and lack of enforcement mechanism. It is remarkable that 74% of the ILSMH organizations are reporting attitudinal factors as an obstacle when building accessible environments. There are no clear differences compared with the NGOs in general. There are clear differences when compared with the government responses. The percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are lower

regarding geographical and climatic factors but higher regarding attitudinal factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity and lack of user participation.

Table 15 (Question No. 15)
Disability awareness component

Disability awareness in the training:	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a disability awareness component	12	30,0
There is not a disability awareness component	28	70,0

Total 40, No answer 6

The majority of ILSMH 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 NGOs in general. No clear differences in the percentage are reported. There are clear differences, when compared with government responses. The percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are lower concerning the incorporation of a disability awareness component in the training of architects and construction engineers.

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

The status of sign language as reported by ILSMH organizations:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Recognized as the official language	20	50,0
As the first language in education	8	20,0
As the main means of communication	2	5,0
No officially recognized status	10	25,0

Total 40, No answer 6

As Table 16 indicates, 25% of ILSMH organizations are reporting that sign language has no officially recognized status, while also 50% of the ILSMH organizations are reporting that sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people. There are no clear differences when compared with the NGOs in general. There are clear differences in the percentages reported, when compared with governments. ILSMH organizations report a higher percentage regarding the status of sign language as the official language of deaf people, but a lower one as regards its status as the main means of communication.

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

Accessibility measures in media	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting accessibility measures	13	28,9
Reporting no accessibility measures	32	71,1

Total 45, No answer 1

As Table 17 shows, the majority of the ILSMH organizations are reporting that there are no accessibility measures for encouraging media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities. The percentage reported here regarding the existence of accessibility measures is 10% lower compared with the percentage reported by the NGOs in general. When compared with governments the percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are considerably lower as regards accessibility measures in media.

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

Public information services	Frequency	Valid Percent
Accessibility measures in information	10	22,7
No accessibility measures in information	34	77,3

Total 44, No answer 2

The majority of the ILSMH organizations are also reporting that there are no government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible for persons with disabilities. There is no clear difference compared with the percent reported by the NGOs in general. When compared with government responses the percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are considerably lower regarding the existence of accessibility measures in public information services.

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

Services to facilitate information/communication	Frequency	Valid Percent
Literature in Braille/tape	31	70,5
News magazines on tape/Braille	18	40,9
Sign language interpretation for any purpose	7	15,9
Sign language interpretation for major events	12	27,3
Easy readers for persons with mental disabilities	11	25,0
None	8	18,2

Total 44, No answer 2

As Table 19 indicates, there are 18% of ILSMH organizations reporting 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, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation for major events, while services such as easy readers for persons with disabilities are less often provided. The main difference here, when compared with the percentages reported by the NGOs in general, is that ILSMH organizations are reporting lower percentage regarding provision of sign language interpretation for any purpose. When compared with the government responses, the percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are lower for all the services listed above, except concerning easy readers for persons with mental disabilities, where the percentage reported is quite close to that reported by the governments.

Organizations of Persons With Disabilities

Table 20 (Question No. 20)
National umbrella organization

National umbrella organization	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a umbrella organization	32	72,7
There is no umbrella organization	12	27,3

Total 44, No answer 2

As Table 20 shows the majority of the ILSMH organizations are reporting that there is an umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities. No differences in the percentage reported compared with those reported by the NGOs in general. Furthermore there is no difference when compared with government responses.

Table 21 (Question 21)
Participation in policy making

Participation in policy-making	Frequency	Valid Percent
ILSMH organizations reporting participation	21	47,7
ILSMH organizations reporting no participation	23	52,3

Total 44, No answer 2

As Table 21 shows, 52% of the ILSMH 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 NGOs in general. There are clear differences, when compared with government responses. The percentage reported by the ILSMH organizations concerning participation in policy-making is considerably lower.

Table 22 (Question 22)
Consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities

Organizations are consulted:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	4	9,1
Sometimes	24	54,5
Often	12	27,3
Always	4	9,1

Total 44, No answer 2

Table 22 shows that a majority of the organizations report that consultations sometimes take place, while 9% of the ILSMH organizations are reporting that consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities when laws, regulations and/or guidelines with a disability aspect are being prepared never take place. Compared with government responses, the percentages reported by ILSMH organizations are higher, when consultations sometimes take place but lower, when consultations always take place.

Table 23 (Question 23)
Level of consultations

Level of consultations	Frequency	Valid Percent
National	36	92,3
Regional	12	30,8
Local	16	41,0

Total 39, No answer 7

Table 23 shows that consultations, when taking place, occur most frequently at the national level. Compared to NGOs in general there are great differences in the percentage reported concerning the regional and local levels. The percentage reported by NGOs in general are almost 10% lower. When compared with government responses, the percentages reported by ILSMH

organizations are lower concerning the regional level.

Table 24 (Question 24)
Support to organizations of disabled people

Kind of support	Frequency	Valid Percent
Financial	23	57,5
Organizational/logistic	13	32,5
No support at all	11	27,5

Total 40, No answer 6

The majority of the ILSMH organizations are reporting that the government gives financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities. However, 17% of the ILSMH organizations report that no support at all is given to organizations of persons with disabilities. Minor differences appear when compared with the percentage reported by the NGOs in general. When compared with government responses there are great differences in the percentages reported. ILSMH organizations report a lower percentage regarding financial and organizational logistic support, but a higher percentage when organizations are not given any support at all.

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	29	3	4
Legislatures	26	6	5
Judiciary	27	3	2
Political parties	20	5	7
NGO's	6	5	29

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

Table 25 shows that the majority of ILSMH 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 NGOs. The same pattern prevails as that reported by the NGOs in general, even when compared with the governments.

Table 26 (Question 26)
The role of organizations

Areas in which organizations are involved	Frequency	Valid Percent
Advocating rights and improved services	39	88,6
Mobilize persons with disabilities	37	84,1
Identify needs and priorities	37	84,1
Participate in the planning, implementation	25	65,9
Contribute to public awareness	42	95,5
Provide services	29	65,9
Promote/organize income generating activities	29	65,9

Total 44, No answer 2

Table 26 shows that organizations are foremost involved in contributing to public awareness, advocating rights and improved services, mobilizing persons with disabilities and identifying needs and priorities. According to ILSMH organizations the areas in which organizations are the least involved are 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 ILSMH organizations apprehend their role to involve a wide range of tasks. The same pattern prevails as with NGOs in general. There are minor differences in the percentage reported. When compared to the government responses the ILSMH organizations are reporting a lower percentage regarding participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of measures and services.

Co-ordination of Work

Table 27 (Question 27)
Co-ordinating committee

Co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a co-ordinating committee	30	69,8
There is no co-ordinating committee	13	30,2

Total 43, No answer 3

Table 27 shows that the majority of the organizations are reporting the existence of a co-ordinating committee. However, 30% are report that there is no such committee. Minor differences appear in the percentage reported, when compared with NGOs in general. There are no clear differences when compared with the percentages reported by the governments.

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

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
A particular Ministry	20	71,4
The Prime Minister's office	4	14,3
Other	4	14,3
There is no co-ordinating committee	13	30,2

Total 41, No answer 5

According to the ILSMH organizations, the authority to which the co-ordinating committee is usually reporting is the Ministry of Social Affairs or any other Ministry. Minor differences appear in the percentage reported, when compared with NGOs in general. There are no clear differences when compared with the percentages reported by the governments.

Table 29 (Question 29)

Representation in the co-ordinating committee

Representatives of:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Ministries	24	85,7
Organizations of persons with disabilities	26	92,9
Other NGO's	16	57,1
Private sector	6	21,4
There is no co-ordinating committee	13	30,2

Total 41, No answer 5

According to the ILSMH organizations, the co-ordinating committee usually includes representatives from Ministries and from organizations of persons with disabilities. Representatives from other NGOs and from the private sector are not that often included in the co-ordinating committee. The same pattern prevails when compared with the NGOs in general, with minor differences in the percentage reported, except regarding the representation of other NGOs, where the percentage reported by ILSMH organizations is higher. There are no clear differences when compared with the responses provided by the governments, except regarding representation of the private sector.

Table 30 (Question 30)

Participation in policy-development

Involvement of the co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Participation in policy development	26	89,7
No participation in policy-development	3	10,3
There is no co-ordinating committee	13	30,2

Total 42, No answer 4

Table 30 shows that 90% of the ILSMH 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 NGOs in general. There are no clear differences when compared with the percentages reported by the governments.

Table 31 (Question 31)

Participation in performance of other tasks

Involvement of the co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting performance of other tasks	14	53,8
Reporting no performance of other tasks	12	46,2
There is no co-ordinating committee	13	30,2

Total 39, No answer 7

54% of the NGOs are reporting that the committee is expected to perform other tasks. The percentage reported by the NGOs in general is 57,1. There are clear differences with the percentages reported by governments. ILSMH organizations report a lower percentage regarding the involvement of the co-ordinating committee in other tasks.

Table 32 (Question 32)

Effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee

Effects	Frequency	Valid Percent
Improved co-ordination of programmes	14	53,8
Improved legislation	12	46,2
Improved integration of responsibility	10	38,5
Better dialogue in the disability field	15	57,7
More accurate planning	7	26,9
More effective use of resources	8	30,8
Improved promotion of public awareness	9	34,6
Too early for assessment	11	42,3
There is no co-ordinating committee	13	30,2

Total 39, No answer 7

According to the ILSMH organizations the establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: a better dialogue in the disability field, improved co-ordination of programmes and improved legislation. 31% of the NGOs report that it is too early for an assessment regarding the effects of the co-ordinating committee, compared to 42% of the ILSMH organizations. When compared with the percentages reported by the governments, ILSMH organizations report a lower percentage regarding improved co-ordination of programmes, improved legislation, better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning and more effective use of resources. However, they report higher percentages than the governments concerning improved integration of responsibility and improved promotion of public awareness. More ILSMH organizations than governments are also indicating that it is too early for an assessment concerning the effects of the co-ordinating committee.

Table 33 (Question 33)

Effects of the adoption of the Standard Rules

The effects of the Standard Rules	Frequency	Valid Percent
ILSMH organizations reporting rethinking	12	38,7
ILSMH organizations reporting no rethinking	18	58,1

Total 31, No answer 15

Table 33 shows that 39% of the ILSMH organizations are reporting that the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy while 58% report that this is not the case. The percentage reported by ILSMH organizations to no rethinking is much higher than NGOs in general. There are great differences compared to the percentages reported by the governments. As much as 81% of the governments report that the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking.

Conclusion

There are 8 questions in which a broad convergence of views exists between ILSMH organizations, the NGOs in general and the governments, namely the following: 2, 8, 9, 20, 25, 27, 28, 30.

There are a number of areas where divergent views exist between ILSMH organizations and governments. In these areas there are no divergent views between ILSMH organizations and NGOs in general. Divergence in views is at least three times more frequent between ILSMH organizations and governments than between ILSMH organizations and NGOs in general.

There are also a number of areas where divergent views exist between ILSMH organizations, NGOs in general and governments. Divergence is not occurring over the whole range of issues in these areas, but in most of them.

Industrialized countries

National Council on Intellectual Disability, Australia

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Australia is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, in guidelines adopted by a National Disability Council, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. According to the Government, disability policy in Australia is expressed in two laws which underpin the disability policy. The Disability Services Act of 1986 provides a framework for developing support services designed to increase individual independence. The Disability Discrimination Act enacted in 1992 recognizes that people with a disability are equals before the law and makes discrimination on the grounds of disability unlawful. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on: anti-discrimination law, accessibility measures, individual support, prevention and rehabilitation.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the government has not done anything to initiate and support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation. According to the Government, educational materials have been developed to raise the awareness of public servants to the needs of people with disabilities. A series of posters, pamphlets, information guides and a staff training kit including a video have been produced and distributed. Marketing strategies for promoting the employment of disabled people in the open labour market have been undertaken with employment support agencies funded by the federal government. Funding has been provided to create Special Employment Placement Officer positions in a range of large corporations to enable them to identify jobs and arrange large scale placement for people with a

disability.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. The non-judicial body available for that purpose is a government body (administrative). According to the government judicial mechanisms include also due process (legal remedy through the courts).

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities only with respect to education. According to the Government the Disability Discrimination Act applies with respect to employment, education, access to premises used by the public, provision of goods, services and facilities, accommodation, buying or selling land, activities of clubs and sport. The only benefit guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities is financial security. According to the Government the following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health/medical care, financial security, participation in decisions affecting themselves. While the provision of employment support services, training, rehabilitation and counselling and services which assist people to attain independent living are also covered by legislation, access to these services is subject to eligibility criteria and limited by the availability of financial support from Federal and state Governments.

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

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 and means of public transport are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. According to the Government the Building Codes Board of Australia - a national authority - oversees the operation of accessibility standards. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing of specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government the using of contrast colours for visually impaired and specially adapted motor vehicles are not provided. Special transport arrangements include taxi voucher schemes. Special transport is available for medical treatment only. The Government does not specify for what purpose special transport is available. 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 user participation and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, economic/budgetary factors are the foremost obstacle for building accessible environments. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, a program is being developed under the Commonwealth Disability strategy, to ensure that planners, architects and construction engineers have access to adequate information on disability policy and measures to achieve accessibility.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status. According to the Government, sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people. It is used as the first language in education of deaf people, also 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 for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, all service providers under the Disability Discrimination Act, are expected to provide non-discriminatory services to members of the public. Measures to make other forms of public information services accessible are addressed by the Commonwealth

Disability Strategy. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation being available, however, for major events only. According to the Government even easy readers for persons with mental disabilities are provided.

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 never consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted whenever legislation or policy concerning disability issues is being prepared and their views are incorporated into legislation and policy, where appropriate. The government supports financially existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judiciary and political parties, to some extent in government and legislatures and to a great extent in NGOs. The role of disabled persons' organizations 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 also participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures and promote income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Health and Family Services. There are, according to the Government, three main co-ordinating bodies. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Health and Social Affairs and of organizations of persons with disabilities. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy but practical outcomes are yet to be seen. According to the Government, the adoption of the Standard Rules has reinforced the Australian Government's commitment to the rights of disabled people to participate in all areas of public life.

Association Nationale d'Aide aux Handicapés Mentaux, Belgium

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. According to the Government (the French speaking region) disability policy is expressed only in guidelines adopted by the Government.

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has not taken any action in order to convey the message of full participation. The Government states having taken action in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation, exclusively dealing with disability matters. According to the Government the rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman, a governmental body (administrative) and independent expert bodies. The Government does not refer to any non-judicial mechanisms.

The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security. According to the Government, even the benefits of 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. According to the Government there are new laws 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 rules to ensure accessibility in the built environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. Accessibility is observed by regional authority and local governments. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities, available for education and work. According to the Government special transport is available also for medical treatment and 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. Economic/budgetary factors, according to the Government, are the foremost obstacle when building accessible environments. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, 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. There are services to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others, however, not provided by the government. The Government states providing the following services 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 no national umbrella organizations. 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 sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local levels. No support is given by the government 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 NGOs. According to the Government, persons with disabilities participate to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. 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. According to the Government organizations also

mobilize persons with disabilities and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to a Ministry. The committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and of organizations of persons with disabilities. The committee does not include representatives of other NGOs or from the private sector. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development, but not to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment concerning the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, there is no co-ordinating committee or any similar body.

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 led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Förbundet de Utvecklingsstördas Väl (FDUV), Finland

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Finland is, according to FDUV, expressed in law. According to the Government, the officially recognized disability policy is also expressed in guidelines, adopted by the National Disability Council, and in policy, adopted by political parties and NGOs. The emphasis in this national policy is on rehabilitation.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules the government has initiated and supported information campaigns to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. According to the Government the rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of general legislation and special legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial bodies for that purpose according to FDUV, are NGOs. According to the Government non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman.

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

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules. According to the Government, since the adoption of the Standard Rules, the Constitution has been amended (1995). For instance, a clause is included (section 14 §3) according to which persons using sign language and persons in need of interpretation and translation services, because of disability, will be protected by law.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, land, sea, air transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by national authority, local governments, and the constructor. According to the Government, accessibility of the built environment is observed by building boards in local governments, on shared responsibility between the constructor and the authorities and shared responsibility between the providers of services and local communities.

The following measures have been promoted by the government to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives for accessibility measures and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government, even the following measures have been promoted: levelling off pavements, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired. There are subsidised transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. Special transport is available for the purpose of medical treatment, education, work and recreation. The most difficult obstacles when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations and lack of user participation.

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. 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 laws and regulations to encourage media and other forms of public information - by means of economic support - 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 for any purpose and easy readers 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. According to the Government, there are such legal provisions. Disability organizations are sometimes consulted when laws with a disability aspect are being prepared. When their views are taken into account, this occurs at both the national, regional and local levels. The government gives financial support to existing and new organizations of persons with disabilities. Disabled people participate to a very limited extent in government and legislatures, but to a great extent in NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services and identify needs and priorities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee in Finland is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health Care. The committee includes representatives from NGOs only. According to the Government, the committee includes representatives also from seven Ministries, from the National Research and development Centre for Welfare and Health and from the Finnish Federation of Municipalities. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development, but not to perform other tasks. According to the Government, the committee is also expected to promote the participation of disabled persons in society and promote awareness raising actions.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not generally led to a rethinking of the approach to

disability policy. According to the Government, the Standard Rules have helped the Government to focus on the areas that need attention. The National Disability Programme is based on the UN Standard Rules.

Kehitysvammaisten Tukiliitto r.y., Finland

General policy

The national 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 NGOs. According to the Government, disability policy is also expressed in policy adopted by political parties. The emphasis in this national disability policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures.

The government has not done anything to initiate and support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation. The Government states that, since the adoption of the Standard Rules, the National Council on Disability in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has published an easy reader version of the Standard Rules in Finnish and in Swedish.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities include: due process (legal remedy through courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues; non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman and NGOs. According to the Government, judicial mechanisms do not include recourse procedure and non-judicial not NGOs.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, 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, independent living as well as participation in decisions affecting themselves.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Standard Rules. According to the Government, since the adoption of the Standard Rules, the Constitution has been amended. A clause on equality and a clause on sign language have also been included.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. According to the Government, there are standards which require that housing is made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. 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. According to the Government, even other measures have been promoted in order to ensure accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives for accessibility measures, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangement for persons with disabilities 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 economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information and lack of user participation. The Government does not regard economic/budgetary factors as an obstacle for building accessible environments. 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. According to the government, sign language is not 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 for persons with disabilities. According to the Government there are recommendations made by a workgroup set up by the Ministry of Transport and Communication in order to encourage media to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature on tape, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. According to the Government, even sign language interpretation for any purpose is provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions that mandate the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making. According to the Government, there are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making. Disability organisations are often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national and local levels. The government supports financially existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government and in the judiciary system, to some extent in legislatures and political parties and to a great extent in NGOs.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Health and Social Ministry. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Transport, Housing and of organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee also includes representatives from the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health and from the Finnish Federation of Municipalities. The government does not expect the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development or to perform other tasks. According to the Government, however, the co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in policy development, to promote the participation of disabled people in society and to promote awareness raising actions. It is too early for an assessment concerning the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, the effects of the co-ordinating committee are improved co-ordination in the disability field, improved legislation and integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. According to the Government, the adoption of the Rules have helped the Government to focus on the areas that needed attention. The National Disability Programme is based on the Standard Rules.

Lebenshilfe, Inclusion International, Germany

General policy

There is no law in Germany prescribing a national disability policy. The government however is obliged to publish a report on the situation of the handicapped and discuss that report in the German parliament. Up to now three reports have been delivered since 1986. The government is not legally obliged to follow up these reports, but is free to formulate its own policy directions and to decide on the priorities in the field of disability legislation. According to the Government, the officially recognized disability policy in Germany is expressed in law and in policy adopted by political parties. The emphasis in the German disability legislation is on rehabilitation, individual support (it is official government policy, since many years, to trust on family support, if a person is unable to work and/or needs personal assistance due to his handicap), prevention, accessibility measures (there is no national law providing a complete range of accessibility measures. The German Disability Act provides a quota scheme, and employers who decide to employ a disabled person may apply for financial support for accessibility measures. In 1993 the German Constitution was changed by including the following amendment "Nobody may be disadvantaged because of his disability." The amendment however is interpreted as a signal to examine policies and legislation. Many NGOs argue that an anti-discrimination law is needed to fill this Article with life.

In order to convey the message of full participation, the Ministry of Labour during 1995, translated the Standard Rules into German.

Legislation

There are different laws for the protection of persons with disabilities. Usually these laws are part of a special legislation for the disabled. There is no specific law covering the interests of a person with a disability regarding the question whether legal assistance is required to start legal proceedings. There is no federal ombudsman for the disabled, but some of the German "Länder" have their own ombudsman for the disabled, however with limited rights. According to the Government, the judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts), while the non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman, a governmental body (administrative) and severely disabled persons' representatives (commissioners at different levels for matters relating to persons with disabilities).

General legislation is applicable with regard to education, employment, the right to marriage (all persons with disabilities are entitled to get married, unless a judge decides that a person with mental handicap is totally incapable of executing his rights), the right to parenthood/family, political rights (since 1992 mentally handicapped persons are entitled to vote), access to court of law (legal aid is granted to everybody who cannot afford a lawyer to represent his interests, irrespective of his disability), 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, independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government, the benefit to participate in decisions affecting themselves applies to a restricted extent, in case of persons with mental disabilities.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules, in 1995 the new German Care Insurance Law has been enacted covering the long-term home care. According to the Government a law has also been enacted in which prohibition of discrimination is acknowledged as a fundamental right.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment, but still they do not sufficiently recognize the special needs of persons with disabilities. There are some activities for improving the accessibility of the public buildings and outdoor environments, but these activities are still left to the discretion of the administrative bodies involved. According to the Government, there are rules requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. The only measure promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment is marking parking areas. All other measures are left to the discretion of different authorities and NGOs. According to the Government, the following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: installing or widening lifts and installing accessible toilets, improving accessibility in housing and providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings. The Government adds, however, that it is almost impossible to answer this question, since in Germany the distinction is not made between 1) statutory provisions which are the responsibility not of the government, but of the respective legislator, 2) statutory provisions which are the responsibility of the Government itself and 3) financial support for corresponding measures, taken by third parties. Persons with disabilities may use public transport free of charge, within a distance of 50 km. Special transport arrangements are available for whatever purpose. Attitudinal factors and financial problems are the main obstacles for improving accessibility of the built environment. The Government does not regard attitudinal factors to be a problem when building accessible environments, but adds to the economic/budgetary factors lack of knowledge, lack of user participation and lack of co-operation from other organisations/institutions. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, 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. According to the Government, there is no need for an official recognition of sign language. An existing language does not need to be introduced or recognized. There are no official government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible to persons with disabilities. According to the Government, however, there are measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities. Measures promoted to make other forms of public information services accessible to disabled people are various research projects sponsored by the Federal Government and the Governments of the Federal states to improve the communication situation of disabled people.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There are different national umbrella organizations. At the moment, the main organizations working for the disabled are trying to organize a "national forum" to meet the requirements of the European Union. According to the Government, there is no national umbrella organization. But, a co-operation exists, established between the organizations of persons with disabilities. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy making and to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, legal provisions exist, mandating the representatives of disabled persons to participate in policy making and to work with governmental institutions. The views of the organizations of persons with disabilities are taken into account as representatives of these organizations are invited to take part in official hearings etc. According to the Government, the views of the organizations are often taken into account, when laws and regulations are being prepared, and the organizations are always asked to submit their views. No support is given to new organizations of persons with disabilities. These must find their own money to establish an office and to employ staff members. The Government states providing project support to organizations of disabled people. The role of the organizations of persons with disabilities is to influence political parties and to gain money for the benefit of the disabled. According to the

Government, the role of organizations of disabled people 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.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee, but a national forum under the Helios Programme of the European Union. According to the Government, however, there is a national co-ordinating committee.

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

Norwegian Association for Mentally Retarded, Norway

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 NGOs. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law. According to the Government, the main emphasis of disability policy is on accessibility measures.

In order to convey the message of full participation the Standard Rules have been translated into Norwegian and distributed to all involved parties and organizations. The government's plan of action is being reviewed in regard to the Standard Rules. A revised plan of action will be developed with emphasis on the national aims in light of the review.

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 procedure (legal remedy through courts). Non-judicial mechanisms include: an Ombudsman, a governmental body, independent expert bodies and a special arbitration/conciliation body. In its account of non-judicial mechanisms the Government does not include independent expert bodies 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 Government adds, however, that the law concerning persons declared to be without legal capacities and the law concerning legal guardians (Guardianship Act) make restrictions for some people with mental disabilities. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities (all benefits and laws for the general population apply for people with disabilities): health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government, independent living is not guaranteed by law to persons with 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 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 a national authority, by local governments and by the constructor. 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 incentives/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 community based arrangements and public transport. Personal cars can be subsidised by the social security system. 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, lack of user participation and lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

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

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There are three umbrella organizations. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, 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 both the national, regional and local level. The government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states giving financial support only to organizations of disabled people. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures and judicial authorities, to some extent in political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. 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. The committee includes representatives only from the three umbrella organizations. According to the Government, the committee includes representatives only from the Ministries. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, e.g. presentation of hearings and reports, independent initiatives etc. It is too early for an assessment of the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee are improved

co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation and the integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources, improved promotion of public awareness and improved user participation.

Federacao National Cooperativas Educacao Rehabilitacao Crianças Inadaptadas (Fenacerci), Portugal

General policy

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

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation. According to the Government, the following measures have been taken in order to convey the message of full participation: The national Secretariat has discussed the issue of full participation and printed a Portuguese version of the Standard Rules, and the media stressed the message included in the Rules.

Legislation

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

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 Government, however, has attached a special note stating that, according to the Constitution, the mentally disabled persons, provided they are unable to fulfil their duties, are subject to special legal provisions, included in the general legislation concerning: marriage, parenthood, voting right and the right to be elected or to hold office in public authorities or even fulfil public functions as well as access to court-of-law, where they are entitled to be represented by their officially appointed representatives. Concerning the performance of a function before a Notariat Office, deaf and blind persons are considered unfit to serve as warrantors, interpreters, experts, translators, readers or witnesses. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, 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 rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places and housing are made accessible. According to the Government, there are no standards which require that housing is made accessible but guidelines establishing that the outdoor environment and means of public transportation are made accessible. 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: marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing and providing of specially adapted motor vehicles. To these measures the Government adds levelling off pavements and using contrast colours and special lighting for visually impaired. There is special transport for persons with disabilities, being available for medical treatment, education and work. According to the Government, special transport is available also 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, 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 but 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. According to the Government, sign language is not 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 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. According to the Government, sign language interpretation is available for any purpose, and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities are also 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 the national 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 but to a great extent in NGOs. 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 Ministerio da Solidariedade e Seguranca Social. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education and of organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee includes also representatives from other NGOs, from the Confederation of Employers, from the National Association of Municipalities and from Trade Unions Confederations. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, e.g. publications, studies, proposing legislation. It is too early for an assessment about the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee. 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. According to the Government, 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.

Riksförbundet för Utvecklingsstörda Barn, Ungdomar och Vuxna, Sweden

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, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. However, this organisation also maintains that there is no officially recognized disability policy. The emphasis in this disability policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law.

The organization claims that the government has initiated and supported information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special 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 for the same purpose include an Ombudsman and 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 and to property rights. According to the Government even the right to privacy is guaranteed by law. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government even the benefit of employment and of independent living is guaranteed by law.

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

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 local governments. According to the Government, accessibility in the built environment is also observed by a national authority and by the constructor. The following measures have been promoted by the government to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for accessibility measures. According to the Government even other measures have been promoted, e.g. levelling off pavements, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport (mobility service) is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible

environments are attitudinal factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, the foremost obstacle for building accessible environments is economic/budgetary factors. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, however, there is such a component.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language for 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 for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation (available only for major events), easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. According to the Government, sign language is available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. The Government states that 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 sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations, when they take place, occur at both the national, regional and local levels. 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 system, but to some extent in political parties and NGOs. The role of the 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 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.

Fédération Suisse des Associations de Parents de Handicapés Mentaux, Switzerland

General policy

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

Legislation

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education,

employment, the right to marriage, access to court-of-law and the right to privacy. According to the Government, general legislation also applies with respect to parenthood/family, political rights and to 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

There are rules to ensure accessibility in the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that means of public transportation are made accessible. According to the Government, there are even laws requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and housing are made accessible. There is special transport (subsidized) for persons with disabilities, being available for any purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, however, there is no such component. 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 other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is 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. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in government, legislatures and judicial authorities but to a very limited extent in NGOs. According to the Government, persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, judicial authorities, political parties, to some extent in legislatures and to a great extent in NGOs. 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. According to the Government, organizations also mobilize persons with disabilities and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, there is no such committee. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development. The establishment of the committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation and a better dialogue in the disability field.

MENCAP, United Kingdom

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in common principles inherent in a range of social policies. According to the Government, disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law, rehabilitation and prevention.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has conveyed 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), the non-judicial being an Ombudsman. According to the Government, non-judicial mechanisms do not include an Ombudsman but a governmental body (administrative), independent expert bodies 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 to property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling and financial security.

The Disability Discrimination Act and the Mental Health Act are laws 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. According to the Government, there are no design standards requiring that means of public transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority, by local governments, the constructor and by the organizers/providers of the services. The following services have been promoted in order to facilitate accessibility of the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring accessibility in public places, improving accessibility in housing, 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 is available for medical treatment (low income groups), education (free or reduced cost), work (access to work scheme) and for recreational purpose (local arrangements). 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 organisations/institutions. There is - though not enough - 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. 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 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 (available for any purpose) and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. According to the Government, sign language

interpretation is available only for major events.

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 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 gives financial and organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in government, legislatures, political parties, NGOs. According to the Government, persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in Government, legislatures, judiciary and 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

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body. According to the Government, there are several authorities acting as national co-ordinating committees: The National Disability Council, reporting to the department of Social Security, the United Kingdom Forum, reporting to the Department of Health, the NACEPD, reporting to the Department of Education and Employment and the DPTAC, reporting to the Department of Transport. The co-ordinating committees include representatives from organizations of disabled people, other NGOs, the private sector, disabled persons and their parents/guardians being also represented. The Government expects the committees to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the committees has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures /programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

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 led to such a rethinking.

American Association on Mental Retardation, USA

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, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. According to the Government, disability policy is expressed in law. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on anti-discrimination law, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, individual support and prevention.

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. According to the Government, several measures conveying the message of full participation have been initiated. For example, technical assistance is provided in several formats, such as training programmes,

information materials and brochures, grants and resource centres.

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 include: due process (legal remedy through courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Non-judicial mechanisms include: governmental body (administrative), independent expert bodies and special arbitration/conciliation body. According to the Government non-judicial mechanisms include also an Ombudsman.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: education, employment, political rights and access to court-of-law. According to the Government general legislation is also applicable with respect to the right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities with a low income only: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling and financial security.

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

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. However, the extent of accessibility varies widely, according to the Association. 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 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 and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government, such measures as financial incentives/support for accessibility in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired have also been promoted. Special transport is available for medical treatment and education, as well as in some cases also for work and to a limited extent even for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors. In some cases 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 other persons: 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 of persons with disabilities. The Government states that there is national umbrella organization, but there are several groups who could be considered as leaders within their fields. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Disability organisations are always consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Their views are taken into account at the national level. According to the Government, the views of the organisations are taken into account also at the regional and local levels. The government financially supports existing and

new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judiciary, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. Disabled persons' organizations role is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities and participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of disabled persons. According to the Government, organizations also contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Office of the President. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs and from the private sector. The government expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development.

On the issue whether the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy, the Association states: "Not to my knowledge - most improvements in disability policy have occurred due to the advocacy of NGOs". According to the Government, since the Standard Rules were adopted and after major US disability Act (ADA) was enacted, the Rules are used concurrently with a rethinking.

Middle East and North Africa

Cyprus Parents Association for Mentally Disabled Persons, Cyprus

General policy

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

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation. According to the Government, the following actions have been taken: relevant celebration during the International Day of Disabled; press conferences by the Ministry of Labour and social Insurance; use of mass media; seminars.

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), the non-judicial bodies including an Ombudsman. According to the Government, non-judicial mechanisms also include a governmental body (administrative) and committees for the protection of the right of people with mental handicap.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities 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. According to the Government, political rights and property rights are not guaranteed by law. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling and financial security.

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 require that public places, the outdoor environment, housing are made accessible. According to the Government, there are no rules requiring that housing is made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local authorities. The Government states that accessibility is also observed by a national authority. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, improving accessibility in housing. According to the Government, access to public places is also ensured. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, there is special transport available for medical treatment and education. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors. According to the Government, also economic/budgetary factors, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism are important obstacles. There is no disability awareness component in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, however, there is such a component.

There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, such measures exist. For instance, financing of sign language for the news bulletins in TV stations. 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. According to the Government, even sign language interpretation for major events is also provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization where all organizations of disabled persons are represented. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Disability organizations 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 with the organizations take place at the national level. According to the Government consultations take place also at the regional and local levels. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, judiciary authorities and political parties but to some extent in legislatures and NGOs. 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 Labour and Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Health and Social Affairs, Education, Culture, Planning, from organizations of persons with disabilities, other NGOs and from the private sector. The government expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development, but not to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning and improved promotion of public awareness.

Christos Steliou Ioannou Foundations, Cyprus

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 also expressed in guidelines adopted by a National disability Council. The emphasis in this national policy is on rehabilitation and individual support.

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation. According to the Government actions have been taken in order to initiate and support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation such as celebrations during the International Day of disabled, press conferences by the Ministry of labour and Social Insurance, use of mass media and seminars.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation, dealing exclusively with disability matters, and general legislation, applicable to all citizens. There is no judicial mechanism to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Non-judicial bodies include a governmental body (administrative) for that purpose. According to the Government, judicial mechanisms include due process (legal remedy through courts), while non-judicial mechanisms also include an Ombudsman and committees for the protection of the rights of the people with mental handicap.

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

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 laws to ensure accessibility in the built environment requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements (partially by local authorities), marking parking areas (partially by local authorities) and ensuring access to public places. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. According to the Government there is special transport available for medical treatment and education. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, lack of legislation and regulations. According to the Government, economic/budgetary factors

are difficult obstacles when building accessible environments. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. The Government states that there is such a component.

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

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. According to the Government there is such an 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 often consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Such consultations occur at the national level. According to the Government, consultations occur also at the regional and local levels. No support is given by the government to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The government states giving financial support to organizations of disabled people. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government. The role of disabled persons organizations 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 Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education, and from organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, the committee also includes representatives from other NGOs, from the private sector and from the organizations of employers and workers. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment of the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, the committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination, legislation, integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. According to the Government, the adoption of the Rules has led to such a rethinking, particularly in the field of legislation and implementation of national policy and measures, as well as in rendering appropriate services.

General policy

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

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 a combination of special legislation and general legislation. According to the Government, the rights of persons with disabilities are protected from a specific group of persons with disabilities. Their rights are not protected by law. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities include: due process (legal remedy through the courts), and recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. There are no administrative and other non-judicial bodies. According to the Government there are no judicial mechanisms to protect the rights of disabled people. But there are administrative and other non-judicial bodies for that purpose. They include independent expert bodies and a special arbitration/conciliation body.

General legislation applies with respect to persons with different disabilities regarding education, and access to court of law. According to the Government, general legislation does not apply to all persons with various disabilities. General legislation is applicable only with respect to education whereas employment applies only to the veterans of war. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, financial security.

Since the adoption of the Rules the law on safety on transportation and the amendment to legislation on building planning have been enacted. According to the Government new legislation concerning disability is now in progress (1.2.96).

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 a national authority and by local governments. The only measure promoted in order to ensure accessibility in the built environment is marking parking areas. According to the Government, even other measures have been promoted, e.g. installing lifts and accessible toilets but not everywhere and providing access to public places but only in new buildings. A small financial support is provided for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities and specially adapted motor vehicles are provided. There are no special transport arrangements. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, attitudinal factors are also a main obstacle.

Sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people and is used as the first language in education of deaf people. 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 for 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.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is 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. According to the Government, consultations occur only at the national level. The government gives no support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states that it provides financial support to organizations. The role of disabled persons organizations 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 also mobilize persons with disabilities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, there is a co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. It includes representatives from Ministries, organizations of disabled people and other NGOs. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. It is, however, too early for an assessment of its effects.

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

Young Muslim Women's Association, Centre for Special Education, Jordan

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy. According to the Government, disability policy in Jordan is expressed in law. The emphasis is on accessibility measures, rehabilitation, prevention, individual support and anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation. The Government states that it has conveyed the message of full participation by conducting seminars and mass media campaigns.

Legislation

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

Since the adoption of the Rules several laws have been enacted. According to the Government,

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

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment establishing national design standards, but they are not implemented yet. According to the Government there are laws to ensure accessibility 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. The Government states that accessibility is observed by the Ministry of Public Works, Municipal Councils and Engineering. The only measures promoted in order to ensure accessibility in the built environment are levelling off pavements, marking parking areas and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government, even the measure of installing or widening lifts and accessible toilets has been promoted. There are no special transport arrangements. According to the Government there is special transport available for medical treatment. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are economic/budgetary factors, 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. According to the Government, the only obstacle for building accessible environments is 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 is recognized as the official language of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities, but no measures to encourage other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is sign language interpretation for major events. According to the Government the services provided are: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation, 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 sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations are always consulted. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states giving organisational/logistic support to organizations of disabled people. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, political parties and NGOs. The Government states that disabled people to a great extent participate in NGOs.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Development. It includes representatives of Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, from other NGOs and from parents associations. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee also includes representatives from the private sector and disabled persons themselves. 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. It is too early for an assessment about the effects of the co-ordinating committee. According to the Government, the committee has had the following

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

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

Inclusion International, Lebanon

General policy

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

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has conveyed the message of full participation by means of legislation and other action. The Government states that it has not done anything for conveying this message.

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 the courts). According to the Government, even recourse procedure by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues is provided. The non-judicial mechanism includes a governmental body (administrative).

General legislation is applicable to persons with different disabilities with respect to education. According to the Government, general legislation does not apply with respect to education but instead with respect to 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. According to the Government, even the benefits of financial security, employment, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves are guaranteed by law.

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 are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by the organizers/providers of services. The only measure which has been promoted by the government in order to ensure accessibility in the built environment is ensuring access to public places. According to the Government, there are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment and no measures have been promoted for facilitating this accessibility. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are economic/budgetary factors and technical factors. 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 for persons with disabilities. The following service is provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. 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 sometimes consulted when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives no support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states giving 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 and legislatures and to a great extent in NGOs. 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 to promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Welfare. It includes representatives of the Ministry of Social Welfare, from organizations of persons with disabilities and from other NGOs. 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 expected even to perform other tasks. 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 and a more accurate planning.

Association des Parents et Amis d'Enfants Inadaptés, Morocco

General policy

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

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

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 and 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 and other non-judicial

mechanisms. According to the Government, the only mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is a governmental body.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities apply with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, the right to privacy, access to court of law and to property rights.

No benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities.

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

Accessibility

There are rules for ensuring the accessibility of the built environment. According to the Government there are no laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the built environment. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, there is a special transport system for persons with disabilities which includes reduced prices for urban transport. Public transport is available for whatever purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, the foremost obstacles, when building accessible environments, are 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 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. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is literature in Braille. According to the Government, even sign language interpretation for major events is provided.

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. Disability organizations are never 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 no support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, organizations receive financial support. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in NGOs. According to the Government, organizations participate to a great extent in NGOs. 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 to promote/organize income generating activities. According to the Government, organizations do not promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to a central body. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes and a better dialogue in the disability field. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee has even improved legislation and integration of responsibility and improved promotion of

public awareness.

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

Inclusion International, United Arab Emirates

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, and in policy adopted by NGOs. 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. General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education only. No new legislation 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 the outdoor environment is made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by municipalities. 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. There is no special transport arrangement for persons with disabilities. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal 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. 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 service is provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is 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 never consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. 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, judicial authorities and political parties, but to a great extent in NGOs. 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.

Co-ordination of work

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

Countries in transition

National Association for People with Mental Handicap, Albania

No reply was received from the Government of Albania.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Albania is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by a National Disability Council, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law, accessibility measures, prevention.

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

Legislation

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

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment 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 the "Law of Employment and Education" has been enacted.

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people 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. None of 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, 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. Disability organizations are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. No support is given by the government to 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 NGOs. 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 to promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee.

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

National Society for Support of People with Mental Handicap, Bulgaria

No reply was received from the Government of Bulgaria.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation.

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.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, 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.

The Law of Protection Rehabilitation and Social Integration of Disabled People has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: marking parking areas and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. There is special transport only for the capital, Sofia. When planning to build accessible environments the economic/budgetary factors are the most difficult obstacle. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people and is used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no government measures 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 easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization in which all 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. 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 and legislatures but to a great extent in political parties and NGOs. The role of disabled persons organizations 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 Prime Minister's office. The committee includes representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGOs. The government expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development. It is too early for an assessment of the effects of national co-ordinating committee.

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

Inclusion International, Croatia

General policy

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

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has initiated and supported seminars in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). The non-judicial mechanism is a governmental body (administrative). According to the Government non-judicial mechanisms also include independent expert bodies.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education (for all categories of disabled people), employment (for less severe handicapped, able to vocational rehabilitation and work), the right to marriage (to those with legal ability), the right to parenthood/family (with legal ability), political rights (to those with legal ability) and access to court-of-law. According to the Government, the above mentioned rights apply to all groups of disabled persons without distinction. In addition, they are applicable also with respect to 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 (partially), employment (for those who are able), independent living (for those who are able). According to the Government, the above mentioned benefits are guaranteed to all groups of disabled people without distinction. Even the benefit of participation in decisions affecting themselves is guaranteed by law.

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 institutions, land, sea, air transportation and housing are made accessible. According to the Government, accessibility is also ensured for the outdoor environment. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments and by the constructor. According to the Government, accessibility is also observed by a national authority. No services have been promoted by the government to facilitate accessibility in the built environment. According to the Government, 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 access to public places, improving accessibility in housing and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations and lack of user participation. 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 is recognized as the official language of deaf people, 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 other persons: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation being available for major events. In addition news for deaf in TV are made available.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization 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 often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the

national, regional and local levels. According to the Government, consultations take place only at the national level. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in legislatures and judicial authorities and to a great extent in government and NGOs. The role of organizations of disabled persons 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 national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Government Commission for Disabled. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries and of organizations of persons with disabilities. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks for instance for periodical meeting in preparing recommendations or actions in the favour of the disabled. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field and more effective use of resources. According to the Government, there is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body.

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

Sdruzeni pro Pomoc Mentálne Postizeným, ILSMH, Czech Republic

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in guidelines adopted by the government. According to the Government, disability policy is also expressed in law and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, accessibility measures, individual support, prevention 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 a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is recourse procedure, by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman and a governmental body (administrative). According to the Government, the judicial mechanism to protect the rights of disabled people is due process (legal remedy through the courts). The non-judicial mechanisms include a governmental body (administrative).

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

rights of marriage and of parenthood/family are not guaranteed by law. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security. According to the Government even the benefits of employment and of participation in decisions affecting themselves are guaranteed by law.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules. According to the Government, the legislation of the Czech Republic since the adoption of the Rules, is being changed to a large extent. Every law and regulation which may concern disability contains special article(s) applying to the persons concerned.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. According to the Government, there are standards which require that even air transportation is made accessible. No responsible body exists for observing the accessibility of the built environment. According to the Government, local governments observe accessibility in the built environment. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility of the built environment: marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets and ensuring access to public places. According to the Government even other measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment e.g. providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings, providing specially adapted motor vehicles, installing of light signalling for the deaf and installing sound signalling on pedestrian crossings for the blind in big cities. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, there is special transport available for all purposes. However, very few public lines are accessible for the physically disabled. Subsidies are provided for individual transport for all purposes. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors and lack of legislation and regulations. The Government does not regard attitudinal factors as a main obstacle when building accessible environments. 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 is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. 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 services accessible to persons with disabilities, but there are no measures to encourage other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. According to the Government there are no measures to encourage media to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation being available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization in which the organizations of the blind, the physically handicapped, the mentally handicapped and people with civilisation illnesses(!) are represented. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations are always consulted in these cases. 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 NGOs. 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. In addition, the organizations promote leisure-time activities, such as sports and culture. According to the Government, the organizations do not promote/organise income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Prime Minister's office. The committee includes representatives of many 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 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, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field and improved promotion of public awareness.

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

Estonian Mentally Retarded Persons Support Organization, Estonia

General policy

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

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 having since the adoption of the Rules, initiated and supported a campaign about the social integration of disabled persons, lasting from June 1996 to May 1997.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts), while the non-judicial available 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, independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves. The organization, adds however, that the Estonian laws in this field are hard to fulfil. The following laws have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules:

- Law of Social protection of the Unemployed, 1995
- Social Welfare Law, 1995

- Income Tax Law, 1995
- Child Benefit Law, 1994
- Working Time and Vacations Law, 1994

Accessibility

There is legislation and other forms of legislation 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. However, the legislation only serves concerning the new buildings. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments and 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 and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for accessibility measures in housing and using contrast colours for visually impaired. The organization explains that "we can find only very few examples of these facilities". Special lighting for visually impaired is also promoted, according to the Government. Special transport arrangements include compensation of gasoline for private transport, free public transport and special taxi in some municipalities. 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 planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organisations/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 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 to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities but there are measures to make other forms of public information services accessible to persons with disabilities. These include literature in Braille and on tape form. 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 for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization in which ten organizations out of 23 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 organisations are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national, regional and local levels. 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, to some extent in judicial authorities and political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. 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 and contribute to public awareness. According to the Government, organizations also provide services.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Prime Minister's office and to the government. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Health and Social Affairs, Employment, Education, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs and of a Diaconal organization. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

The organization cannot tell whether the adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy because no disability policy existed before.

Ertelmi Fogyatekosok Országos Erdekvedelmi Szövetség (ÉFOÉSZ), Hungary

General policy

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

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

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. According to the Government, the rights of persons with disabilities are protected only by general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, is due procedure (legal remedy through courts). The non-judicial mechanism for that purpose is an Ombudsman. According to the Government, non-judicial mechanisms also include a special arbitration/conciliation body.

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

outdoor environment are made accessible. The only measure which have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment is the provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government, other measures which have been promoted are: marking parking areas, improving accessibility in housing and providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of disabled persons. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, special transport for disabled persons include: a specialized service taxi, service of a specialized buss, which against a modest payment can be used by disabled people. 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 legislation and regulations and lack of enforcement mechanism. 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.

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 to make their services accessible. According to the Government, there are no measures to encourage media to make their services accessible. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. According to the Government, the services which are provided in order to facilitate information and communication are: literature in Braille/tape, and sign language interpretation 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 often 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 financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislatures, to some extent in judicial authorities and to a great extent in NGOs. According to the Government, disabled persons participate to a limited extent in NGOs. 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.

Lithuanian Welfare Society for Persons with Mental Disability, Lithuania

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council and in policy adopted by NGOs. According to the Government, disability policy is expressed in law. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on prevention, individual support, accessibility measures, rehabilitation, 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 having, since the adoption of the Rules, by means of the proclamation of 1996 as the year of the disabled and the translation of the Standard Rules to Lithuanian language, conveyed the message of full participation.

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. Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include a governmental body (administrative), independent expert bodies and a special arbitration/conciliation body. According to the Government, the only mechanism established to protect the rights of disabled persons is due process (legal remedy through the courts).

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, political rights and access to court-of-law. According to the Government, general legislation also applies with respect to the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, 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. According to the Government even the benefit of independent living is guaranteed by law.

Two laws have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules: The Law on Mental Health Care and The Law on Social Services.

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. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. The Government states that the enactment of relevant legislation is the measure taken to ensure accessibility in the built environment. There is a special transport system available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors and lack of enforcement mechanism.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people, is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures 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 even sign language interpretation and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities are provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. According to the Government, there are five organizations acting as umbrella organizations. 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 legal provisions mandating the representatives of disabled people 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. No support is given by the government to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, organizations receive financial, organizational/logistic support and "legal, methodological" support as well. Persons with disabilities participate to a limited extent in judicial authorities and political parties, to some extent in government and to a great extent in legislatures and NGOs. The role of organisations 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 provide services, nor promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the government. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries and of organisations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee also includes representatives from the private sector, from the Vilnius University and from Kaunas Medical Academy. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

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

Polish Association for Persons with Mental Handicap, Poland

General policy

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

The government has translated the Standard Rules and distributed them to all NGOs. However, information campaigns are initiated by the NGOs only. According to the Government, even other actions have been taken, e.g. the principles of co-operation between the Government and NGOs were adopted by the Government and disseminated; propagation in mass-media etc.

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), dealing mainly with problems of employment.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, access to court-of-law 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 and to 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 disabled persons: training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, 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, the outdoor environment and housing (only for the newly constructed buildings) are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed 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 to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, installing automatic doors (in banks and hotels mainly), installing lifts and accessible toilets, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements include: a) Subsidized normal transport for children and adults with severe disabilities, b) Special buses at a low price for the disabled - recently introduced in big cities, c) Mini buses in special institutions for disabled persons. 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 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 has no officially recognized status but is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognised as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. According to the Government, sign language is also 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. According to the Government, 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. According to the Government, even sign language interpretation for major events is provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

It is difficult to assess if there is an umbrella organization, because the "umbrella" does not cover all organizations and it does not function in the way which is specific for the umbrella organization. According to the Government, there is an umbrella in which 100 NGOs are represented. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Organizations 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. According to the Government, consultations occur also at the local level. The government gives financial support for running services not run by the government - without covering the costs of their functioning. The Government states giving also an organizational/logistic support. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. 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. In addition, organizations are lobbying at the Parliament and government. According to the Government, organisations also promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body. According to the Government, there is a co-ordinating committee reporting to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The co-ordinating committee includes representatives of Ministries, of organisations of disabled people, of other NGOs and from the private sector. The Government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking of the disability policy as this document up till now was unknown to the Parliament and the Government. According to the Government, the Standard Rules help to create the policy and activity in favour of persons with disabilities.

Rehabilitation Centre of Disabled Children Having Cerebral Palsy and Spinal Cord Pathologies, Republic of Belarus

No reply was received from the Government of Belarus

General policy

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

In order to convey the message of full participation a national rehabilitation programme is being worked out, in accordance with the Standard Rules.

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). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies are not available.

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

The Law of Prevention of Disability and of Rehabilitation of the Disabled was enacted in 1994.

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. Special transport includes transport free of charge within the town, but is available only for emergency cases. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organisations/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 is recognized as the official language of deaf people, used as the first language in education of deaf people and recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no government measures 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 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 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, regional and local level. The government gives organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government and judicial authorities, to some extent in legislatures and political parties and to a great extent in NGOS. 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 programmes, contribute to public awareness and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

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

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

Association of Parents of Children with Handicap, Republic of Belarus

No reply was received from the Government of Belarus

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

By means of information campaigns the government has conveyed the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. There is no judicial mechanism to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The non-judicial mechanism available for that purpose is a governmental body (administrative).

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

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the public places and the outdoor environment, but no rules to ensure accessibility in means of public transport and in housing. No responsible body exists to ensure accessibility of the built environment. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. Special transport is available for any purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, 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 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 only measure provided to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is literature in Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. 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 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 NGOs. 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.

Co-ordination of work

There is a national co-ordinating committee. The committee includes representatives only of organisations of persons with disabilities and other NGOs. The government does not expect the committee to participate in policy development but to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment about the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

"Actrakhan" Association, Russia

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in policy adopted by political parties. According to the Government, disability policy is expressed in law. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, prevention and individual support. According to the Government, the main emphasis is on anti-discrimination law.

The government has not done anything to convey information campaigns, conveying the message of full participation, but local authorities support information campaigns. The Government states having taken, since the adoption of the Rules, the following actions in order to convey the message of full participation: A state report on the status of persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation has been published; radio and television programmes are broadcast on a regular basis; literature for persons with disabilities and on problems of disability are published, including material in Braille; the International Day of Disabled Persons is celebrated annually.

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 both general and special legislation.

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

No new legislation concerning disability has been adopted since the adoption of the Rules. According to the Government, several laws have been enacted.

Accessibility

There are regulations and guidelines which establish standards requiring that public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors and lack of legislation and regulations. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, there is such a component.

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

Government, sign language interpretation for any purpose is provided, but no easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. According to the Government, 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. Organisations of persons with disabilities are often 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 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 and 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, 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 Defence and to the Ministry of Education. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries and of organizations of persons with disabilities. The co-ordinating committee is expected 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, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, improved promotion of public awareness. According to the Government, there is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body.

National Association for Mentally Handicapped of Slovenia, Slovenia

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council and in policy adopted by NGOs. According to the Government, disability policy is not expressed in guidelines adopted by a national disability council nor in policy adopted by NGOs.

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 having initiated and supported information campaigns conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

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

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. The benefits of employment and independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves are partially guaranteed.

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, the outdoor environment, means of public transport, and housing are made accessible. According to the Government, rules to ensure accessibility require that public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by the Ministry of Environment. According to the Government, accessibility in the built environment is observed by the constructor. 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 automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing and installing special lighting for visually impaired. According to the Government, measures such as levelling off pavements, improving accessibility in housing and ensuring access to public places are not promoted. There is a special transport for persons with disabilities available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. According to the Government, special transport is not available for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors.

The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation (available for any purpose) 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 development and to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, there are no 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 the national level. The government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities by means of a special law about lottery. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judicial authorities but to a great extent in legislatures, political parties and NGOs. The role of disabled persons organizations is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Federacao Nacional das APAEs, Inclusion International, Brazil

No reply was received from the Government of Brazil.

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

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has conveyed 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 include due process (legal remedy through the courts) and recourse procedure, by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. There are no administrative and other non-judicial bodies.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment and access to court of law. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security and employment.

The following laws concerning the rights of persons with disabilities have been enacted since the adoption of the Rules: Law no. 7853/89 and Decree no. 914/93.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. There are no standards requiring that means of public transport and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority, by local governments and by the organizers/providers of services. The following services 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 and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements include free inter-state and state transportation, 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 knowledge, research and information, lack of co-operation from other organisations/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 government measures to encourage media to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities, but there are government measures to encourage other means of public information to make their services accessible, e.g. sponsorship of publicity. 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 major events.

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 always 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 and organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. The role of the 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 co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Justice. It includes representatives of several Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, from other NGOs and from the of private sector. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. The establishment of the committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning and more effective use of resources.

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

Sociedad pro Ayuda del Niño Lisiado, Chile

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, and in guidelines adopted by a national disability council. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation. According to the Government, there is no officially recognized disability policy.

Since the adoption of the Rules, by means of various methods, the government has conveyed 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 and general legislation.

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, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government the benefit of financial security is not guaranteed by

law.

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. According to the Government, there are laws and regulations ensuring the accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transportation and housing are made accessible. 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 automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring accessibility in public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, special transport systems for persons with disabilities include reduced prices in public transport and are offered for whatever purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors 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. According to the Government, there are measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others. 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 and sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. 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 always consulted. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, no support is given to organizations of disabled persons. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties but to a great extent in NGOs. 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 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 Ministry of Planning. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, from other NGOs and from the private sector. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development.

Inclusion International, 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 national disability council. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation and prevention.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government by means of various measures, has conveyed 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.

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements and marking parking areas. There is no special transport for persons with disabilities. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity, 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. 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 sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national 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 NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, contribute to public awareness and provide services.

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

Fundacion Dominicana para Ninos con Necesidades

Especiales, Dominican Republic

No reply was received from the Government of the Dominican Republic.

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 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 the courts). There is no administrative mechanism for that purpose.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to: the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court of law, the right to privacy and to property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment. Other benefits such as health and medical care, financial security, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves are not guaranteed by law.

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 is made accessible. 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, ensuring 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 attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information 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. 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.

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. 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, political parties and to some extent in NGOs. 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 co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. It includes representatives of several Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities and from other NGOs. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment about the effects of the co-ordinating committee.

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

Centre d'Education Speciale, Haiti

No reply was received from the Government of Haiti.

General policy

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

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 recourse procedure, by a special agency dealing with anti-discrimination issues. There is no administrative body for that purpose.

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 measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities (a special bus at the disposal of special institutions), which is available for recreational purpose. 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 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 service is provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organisation. 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. The government gives financial 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 NGOs. 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

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

Asociacion de Padres de Familia con Hijos Discapacitados, Nicaragua

No reply was received from the Government of Nicaragua.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation and 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 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 a governmental body (administrative).

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

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 transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority, by local governments, and by the organizers/providers of the services. 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 special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities available for whatever purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors 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. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with 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. 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. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to contribute to public awareness, to provide services and to promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Education. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Employment, Transport, Education and from organizations of persons with disabilities. 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 integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field. Its establishment has not led to improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources nor to improved promotion of public awareness.

To a certain extent the adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Inclusion International, Mexico

General policy

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

In order to convey the message of full participation the government has formulated a national programme on disability in which the Standard Rules are being observed. The Government also refers to several information campaigns undertaken in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). The non-judicial mechanisms include an Ombudsman and a governmental body (administrative). According to the Government, judicial mechanisms also include recourse procedure by a special agency, dealing with anti-discrimination issues.

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

Amendments of old laws as well as new laws have 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 transportation, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments and by NGOs. According to the Government, there is a national authority supervising the accessibility in the built environment. 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 and ensuring access to public places. According to the Government even other services are provided in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. According to the Government, there is special transport 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 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, 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. 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 measures are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. According to the Government, there is a national umbrella organization in which all organizations of disabled people are represented. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. According to the Government, organizations are always consulted. Consultations occur at the local level. According to the Government, consultations also occur at the national and regional levels. No support is given by the government to organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states giving organizational/logistic support to organizations of disabled people. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government and judicial authorities, to some extent in legislatures, and to a great extent in political parties and NGOs. 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 General Director of the Family Integral Development National Program. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee is reporting to the President of the Republic. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities, from other NGOs 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 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.

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

Sub-Saharan Africa

Association des Parents et Amis d'Enfants Encéphalopathes du Burkina Faso, Burkina Faso

No reply was received from the Government of Burkina Faso.

General policy

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

Since the adoption of the Rules 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 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. The non-judicial body 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, training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places and the outdoor environment 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: access to public places and provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. 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 and technical factors. 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, is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media 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.

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 always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties and NGOs. 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 co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministère de l'Action Sociale et de la Famille. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries, from organizations of persons with

disabilities and from other NGOs. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

APEHM, Inclusion International, Cameroon

No reply was received from the Government of Cameroon.

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 convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

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

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 measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment. There is no special transport for persons with disabilities. 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. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language 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. 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 never consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. The government gives organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities and contribute to

public awareness.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee. The adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Association Nationale des Personnes Handicapées Mentales du Congo, Congo

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law and in policy adopted by political parties. According to the Government, disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the Government and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, and accessibility measures. The main emphasis, according to the Government, is on anti-discrimination law.

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

Legislation

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, employment and independent living. According to the Government even the benefits of health and medical care 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 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 obstacle, when planning to build accessible environments, is lack of legislation and regulations. According to the Government, the most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors.

Sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people, is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. According to the Government, sign language is used as the first language and recognized as the main means of communication. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information services to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The Government states that such measures exist. No services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons

with disabilities and others. According to the Government, the only service provided is sign language interpretation 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. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority. The government gives organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. The Government states giving also financial support to organizations. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislatures, and judicial authorities whereas to a great extent in political parties and NGOs. 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 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 led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Association des Parents et Amis des Jeunes Handicapés Mentaux de Madagascar, Madagascar

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in policy adopted by NGOs and in the national policy in favour of persons with disabilities. The emphasis in this policy is on prevention, rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law and accessibility measures. According to the Government disability policy is under the process of elaboration.

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has taken measures in order to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation, exclusively dealing with disability matters and general legislation applicable to all citizens. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts) while 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, political rights and to property rights. According to the Government, general legislation does not apply with respect to property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: training, rehabilitation and

counselling, employment, independent living. According to the Government the benefit to employment is not guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities, but on the other hand the benefits of health and medical care as well as of participation in decisions affecting themselves are guaranteed by law.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules. According to the Government, 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 are made accessible. According to the Government, there are no rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. No responsible body exists to ensure accessibility in the built environment. The only measure which has been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment is the ensuring of access in public places. According to the Government, no measures have been promoted 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 attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement 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. According to the Government, 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. According to the Government, there are such measures. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is sign language interpretation, for any purpose. According to the Government even literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape /Braille and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between deaf persons 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. According to the Government, there are such legal provision. 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. According to the Government, consultations occur also at the regional and local levels. No support is given by the government to organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, organizations receive financial and organizational/logistic support. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in NGOs. 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. According to the Government, organizations also participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, 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 Population. The committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, from organizations of persons with disabilities and from other NGOs. The government does not expect the 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 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 led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Association des Amis et Parents d'Enfants Handicapés Mentaux de Madagascar, Madagascar

General policy

The emphasis in disability policy is on rehabilitation, prevention, individual support, anti-discrimination law, accessibility measures. According to the Government disability policy is under the process of elaboration.

Since the adoption of the Rules the government has conveyed the message of full participation by means of information campaigns.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The Government states that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special and general legislation.

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

Accessibility

There are no rules to ensure 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 attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity, 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 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. According to the Government there are measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The only measure provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is sign language interpretation, for major events. According to the Government even other measures are provided in order to facilitate information and

communication between disabled persons and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. 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, such legal provisions exist. 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 always consulted. Consultations occur at the local level. According to the Government, consultations occur also at the national and regional levels. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties but to a great extent in NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to contribute to public awareness, provide services, promote/organize income generating activities. According to the Government, organizations also advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities and participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures.

Association Mauritanienne pour la Promotion des Handicapes Mentaux, Mauritania

No reply was received from the Government of Mauritania.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in guidelines adopted by the government and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation and 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. 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 for that purpose.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, 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.

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 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 attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, technical factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of planning and design capacity, 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 used as the first language in education of deaf people and is also 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 have been promoted 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 never consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. 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 and to some extent in NGOs. 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, promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

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

S.A. Federation for Mental Health, South Africa

General policy

There is no officially recognized disability policy in South Africa.

In order to convey the message of full participation the government is financing an awareness commission of a national co-ordinating committee on disability. The Government states that no campaign was initiated.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. According to the Government there is no legislation at the present to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, but the Government is investigating a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation. The judicial mechanisms available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities include due process (legal remedy through the courts) and recourse procedure by a special agency, dealing with anti-discrimination issues. The Non-judicial mechanism is an Ombudsman. The Government states that regarding the judicial/non-judicial mechanisms to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, there is a proposal for a Commission on Disability Equality and for a Public Protector and Human Rights Commission in South Africa.

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. However, the organization states, that the legal situation regarding people with mental disabilities is uncertain, since most of above rights are guaranteed by constitution, but excluded by older general legislation. The only benefit, guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities, is health and medical care. According to the Government, few benefits are guaranteed by law in South Africa. There is medical care in towns and big cities, most rural areas having poor or no facilities. Income is guaranteed by means of a disability grant, subject to means test.

Since the adoption of the Rules the Social Assistance Act has been enacted. This, however, has more to do with the rationalization of health and welfare responsibilities than the Standard Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and housing are made accessible. According to the Government, these rules ensure accessibility in means of public transportation and in housing. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. According to the Government, no responsible body exists to observe accessibility. 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 and improving accessibility in housing. According to the Government, no measures have been promoted to ensure accessibility in housing. There are special transport arrangements (some local authorities have free public transport) for persons with disabilities which are available for medical treatment and education. According to the Government, 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 and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, economic/budgetary factors are not one of the most difficult obstacles. 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 has no officially recognized status, and is not used as the first language in education of deaf people but is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. According to the Government, sign language is recognized as the main means of communication between persons with disabilities 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 persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille and sign language interpretation being available for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy making 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 both the national and regional level. The government gives financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities. According to the Government, no such support is given to organizations 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, contribute to public awareness and

promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Welfare and to the Office of the President. The committee includes representatives of several Ministries, from organizations of persons with disabilities and from other NGOs. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks, e.g. to monitor the implementation of the Standard Rules. According to the Government, the co-ordinating committee is not expected to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment about the effects of the co-ordinating committee.

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

Zimcare Trust, Zimbabwe

No reply was received from the Government of Zimbabwe.

General policy

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

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 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 the courts), while the non-judicial is an Ombudsman.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, access to court of law, the right to privacy and to property rights. The only benefit guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities is health and medical care.

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 of the built environment. The only measure which has been promoted in order to facilitate this accessibility 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 attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of co-operation from other organisations/institutions 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 official language of deaf people, is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities, but there are no measures to make other forms of public information services accessible. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others is literature in Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. 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 government and legislature but to a great extent in political parties and NGOs. 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 Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Ministry. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, and of Education as well as from organizations of persons with disabilities. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment about the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee.

It is too early to assess the effects of the Standard Rules.

South, East Asia and the Pacific

National Forum for Welfare of the Mentally Handicapped, India

No reply was received from the Government of India.

General policy

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

By means of new legislation the government has conveyed the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation. The judicial mechanisms adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). The administrative and other non-judicial bodies include a government body (administrative) and independent expert bodies.

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

New legislation has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules. (Persons with Disabilities Act - 1995.)

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment. No responsible body exists to observe accessibility in the built environment. The only measure promoted by the government in order to facilitate this accessibility is the provision of specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements include subsidized transport and are 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 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 no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language 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 following measures 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 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 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 existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judiciary, political parties and to some extent in NGOs. The role of disabled persons organizations is to mobilize 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. It includes representatives of many Ministries, from other NGOs, from the private sector and selected senior professionals. The government expects the co-ordinating committee 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 effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

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