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III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

B. Specific rights (arts. 5–30)

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of specific policies and programmes to protect and promote the rights of children with disabilities;

(b) The prevalent stigma, discrimination and harmful stereotypes against children with disabilities, and the barriers that hinder their access to education, health and other services.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement a comprehensive action plan and strategy for the promotion and protection of the rights of children with disabilities, allocating sufficient human, technical and financial resources for its implementation;

(b) Take measures to address stigma, discrimination and harmful stereotypes against children with disabilities, and ensure their access to education, health and other services without discrimination, on equal basis with other children.

Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The legislative provisions allowing for deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities and their involuntary placement in residential care institutions on the grounds of their actual and perceived impairment;
(b) The lack of procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities suspected of having committed a crime at all stages of the judicial process;

(c) The lack of statistical data to assess the enjoyment of the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities in the State party, disaggregated by age, gender and disability, on persons with disabilities who are currently hospitalized or institutionalized without their consent.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee’s guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, annex I):

(a) Repeal all legislation that allows for the deprivation of liberty on the grounds of actual or perceived impairment or that authorizes institutionalization or involuntary hospitalization of persons with disabilities;

(b) Provide for procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities suspected of having committed a crime, at all stages of the judicial process, including interrogation, prosecution, trial and detention;

(c) Put in place mandatory guidelines for admission in order to respect the dignity, integrity, will and preferences of persons with disabilities, and to ensure that they are not deprived of their liberty and provide in its next periodic report statistical data, disaggregated by age, gender and disability, on progress over time of the number of persons with disabilities who are still hospitalized or institutionalized without their consent.

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

37. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The persistence of institutionalization of persons with disabilities and the emphasis on the so-called “institution-based rehabilitation”;
(b) Segregation or exclusion of persons with disabilities from the community, including owing to stigmatization and attitudinal barriers, in particular against persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;

(c) The inadequate services and provision of personal assistance to promote independent living of persons with disabilities, especially in remote and rural areas, to enable their inclusion and full participation in the community.

38. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and recommends that the State party:

(a) Introduce and implement a strategy, with a clear time frame, to ensure the transition from institutions to full independent living and being included in the community for all persons with disabilities, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, and ensure the allocation of the resources necessary for the implementation of that strategy;

(b) Promote the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to live independently and be included in the community, including by raising awareness among the general public to tackle stigmatization and attitudinal barriers;

(c) Allocate sufficient resources for the provision of personal assistance and to ensure that support services in the community are available, accessible, affordable and of high quality across the State party, including in remote and rural areas.

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

... 

(b) The limited support for the parents and families of children with disabilities and for parents with disabilities to ensure their right to a family life and prevent involuntary family separation on the basis of disability.
44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

... (b) Abolish the practice of involuntary family separation on the basis of disability and provide the necessary support, including financial support, counselling, and community-based support and services for children with disabilities, their parents and families as well as for parents with disabilities, to guarantee their enjoyment on an equal basis with others of their rights with respect to family life.

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**Acronyms and Abbreviations:**

- CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child/Committee on the Rights of the Child
- CRPD: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- ICCRP: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- OPAC to CRC: Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
- UN: United Nations