## Online regional consultations with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

## “From isolation, invisibility and segregation into inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. Identifying and overcoming barriers to the successful process of deinstitutionalization”

#### [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx)

#### Informative note for stakeholders

A series of regional consultations will take place between the members of the [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx) (the Committee) and persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, during the first half of 2021.

1. What prompted these consultations? The Committee has received information indicating that the COVID-19 pandemic and measures adopted by countries to contain it have put many persons with disabilities at risk of losing their sources of income, social protection benefits, and increased the likeliness of them being forced into institutionalization, and isolation. These developments have particularly affected persons with disabilities exposed to systematic and structural discrimination, including those who are still in institutions, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and children, older persons and women with disabilities.

2. What is the purpose of the consultations? To provide an opportunity for persons with disabilities including those who are particularly marginalised, and in institutions, to voice their experiences, opinions, and proposals on how to address the current situation, which have exacerbated inequalities, and pushed them into isolation and risk of institutionalization. The Committee, based on the contributions, will prepare a first draft Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergency situations. The ultimate goal is to reinforce the operationalisation of [the right to living independently and being included in the community (article 19)](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx#19), the Committee’s [General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2fC%2fGC%2f5&Lang=en) and its [Guidelines on liberty and security of the person (2015)](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=A/72/55&Lang=en).

3. Who can participate? Persons with disabilities, in their individual capacity, or through their representative organizations. Organizations of children and young persons with disabilities, self-advocacy organizations, organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, of persons with psychosocial disabilities, and organizations of women with disabilities are encouraged to participate. Other interested organizations or entities may attend as observers.

***How to participate in the regional consultations***

4. When? There will be seven regional consultations during the first half of 2021.

* Check in [**annex 1**](#_ANNEX_1_Topics_1) of this note and identify in which region your country has been included;

* Be aware of the dates of the regional consultation.

The regional consultation for Central Asia and Eastern Europe will take place on **Thursday** **25 February 2021, at:**

9h00 Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia

10h00 Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Russian Federation (Kaliningrad)

11h00 Belarus, Russian Federation (Moscow)

12h00 Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russian Federation (Samara)

13h00 Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Russian Federation (Yekaterinburg)

14h00 Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation (Omsk)

15h00 Russian Federation (Novosibirsk)

16h00 Russian Federation (Irkutsk)

18h00 Russian Federation (Vladivostok)

The regional consultation for Central and South America will take place on **Tuesday 2** **March 2021, at:**

11h00 Mexico (Tijuana)

13h00 Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico (Central), Nicaragua

14h00 Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico (Quintana Roo), Panama, Peru

15h00 Bolivia, Brasil (Manaos), Dominican Republic, Venezuela

16h00 Argentina, Brasil (Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Recife), Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay.

19h00 Spain (Las Palmas, Canary Islands)

20h00 Spain (continental, including Madrid)

* Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations based in Spain are welcome to participate in the regional consultation taking place on 2 March.
* Dates for other regional consultations will be confirmed later on.

5. How I can register?

Please send an email to [cpedreros@ohchr.org](mailto:cpedreros@ohchr.org).

* 1. In the subject of the email indicate the online regional consultations in which you wish to participate. **Example:** *Regional consultation Africa*
  2. In the text of the email, indicate:

1. The full name of the person of your organization that will speak at the online consultation;
2. The name of the organization;
3. The country and/or region where the organization is based or active.
   1. Please **attach to the email the statement you will deliver** during the consultation. Please only send documents in Word format. The maximum length of the statement is **520 words (double-spaced, 12 font**).
   2. Statements may be submitted **in English or any of the following languages**:

* Consultation for Africa: English and French
* Consultation for Asia-Pacific: English
* Consultation for Central Asia and Eastern Europe: English and Russian
* Consultation for Central and South America: Spanish and Portuguese
* Consultation for North America and the Caribbean: English
* Consultation for European Union and Western Europe: English and French
* Consultation for Middle East and North Africa: Arabic and English
  1. Deadlines to register and to submit statements:

1. For the regional consultation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia by **Friday 12 February 2021**;
2. For the regional consultation in Central and South America by **Monday 22 February 2021**;
3. For other regional consultations, dates will be confirmed later on.

5.6 Suggested **topics** to be covered/guiding questions:

(a) What measures need to be adopted to prevent persons with disabilities from being further isolated, marginalized or at risk of institutionalization during the pandemic? what measures should be taken to establish, maintain and strengthen individualized support in social security systems, including in the context of emergencies, in order to prevent institutionalization? What needs to be done to ensure that persons with disabilities continue exercising, including in emergencies, their autonomy with regard to living arrangements, and their control over the use of services and supports?

(b) What measures need to be adopted to ensure that persons with disabilities who have been institutionalized before or during the emergency can leave the institutions rapidly and safely, are included in the community with appropriate support, and have access to accessible mainstream facilities, goods and services offered to the public, on an equal basis with others? What type of support, including economic and social support, should be made available for persons with disabilities to exercise their right to leave institutions, and to establish in the community? how this support should be provided?

(c) What measures need to be adopted to ensure that persons with disabilities retain their choice, autonomy and self-determination based on their will and preferences, including during deinstitutionalization processes, and are not subjected to institutionalization, re-institutionalization and/or any form of coercion? How should deinstitutionalization be carried out for persons requiring support to understand information, make decisions, and express themselves, so as to fully respect their rights, will and preferences throughout the process?

(d) What measures need to be adopted to end all forms of institutionalization in legislation and practice, including placement in small or large group homes or family-like settings, special schools, colonies for persons affected by leprosy, all mental health settings, religious or faith healing settings, criminal forensic detention, or any other places where persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty?

(e) What measures need to be adopted to address the situation of specific groups, such as children with disabilities, young persons with disabilities, older persons with disabilities, persons requiring high levels of support, women with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities or any group that is at a high risk of institutionalization, reinstitutionalization, isolation, and coercion? what needs to be done to eliminate discrimination against these groups in legislation and in practice, and to allow them to freely enjoy their right to live independently?

(f) What kinds of disability-related support is required for the specific group you are part of, to meet long-term, periodic, and transitory requirements, including crisis support?

(g) What kinds of remedies and redress should be available for persons with disabilities who have been institutionalized, and/or subjected to any form of arbitrary detention, forms of torture, other inhuman or degrading treatment or other coercive and harmful practices in connection with institutionalization?

(h) What should be the role of actors, such as State agencies, private sector, charities, families, civil society organizations, and national human rights institutions in ensuring that any measures, including those to counteract the pandemic are meaningful in operationalizing inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community, and in avoiding institutionalization, reinstitutionalization, isolation and coercion?

(i) Could you mention any good practices or experiences that you are aware of in your country or region, in relation to any of the aforementioned topics?

(j) Could you make reference to any good practices or experiences that you are aware of, concerning consultations and involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in public policies or measures taken in any of the topics mentioned before?

5.7. How do I know my request to participate has been accepted?

* You will receive an email acknowledging your enrolment in the consultation;
* You will also receive a link to join Zoom online platform;
* The email will indicate the order of your intervention in the list of speakers.

6. What is the format of the online regional consultations?

(a) Each consultation will last up to 90 minutes, and depending on the number of speakers it may be extended;

(b) A member of the Committee will moderate the consultation;

(c) Each speaker will have a 4-minute speaking slot. Speakers representing local, national, regional or international coalitions of organizations of persons with disabilities will have up to 8 minutes;

(d) Speakers are invited to address one or more of the topics previously mentioned (**Please see guiding questions under subheading 5.6**);

(e) Members of the Committee may raise additional follow-up questions to the participants.

7. Captioning and International Sign Language:

* Please activate the function Captioning in your Zoom;
* International Sign will be provided;
* Language interpretation Arabic-English; English-French; English-Russian; Portuguese-Spanish.

8. Alternative ways of providing information to the Committee:

In case an organization cannot participate online, it can send information in the following way:

Using [WeTransfer](https://wetransfer.com/), send to [cpedreros@ohchr.org](mailto:cpedreros@ohchr.org) the following:

(a) A written statement. The maximum length of the statement is 520 words (double-spaced, 12 font); or

(b) A video message. Up to 4 minutes in length; or

(c) A voice recording. Up to 4 minutes in length.

We suggest that contributions **address one or more of the topics previously mentioned (Please see guiding questions under subheading 5.6).**

9. Confidentiality and safety of individuals and organizations participating in the consultation

Consultations are closed to participants that get accreditation. Contributions are kept confidential.

*\* This informative note has been prepared by the Committee’s Working Group on Deinstitutionalization. The* [*International Disability Alliance*](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/)*, the European Network for Independent Living, Inclusion International, Validity Foundation and other civil society organizations also contributed.*

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## **ANNEX 1 *List of countries per region***

**Africa:**

Central Africa: Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Sao Tomé and Principe. East Africa: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. South Africa: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Eswatini (former Swaziland), Zambia, and Zimbabwe. West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Togo.

**Americas:**

**North American and the Caribbean States**: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, United States of America, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, and Trinidad and Tobago.

**Central and South American and other States**: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

**Asia-Pacific:**

Pacific: Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands Countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu).  South East Asia: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam.  North East Asia: China, Japan, Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the Republic of Korea. South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

**Central Asia and Eastern Europe**:

Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Eastern Europe: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo\*, North Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia, and Ukraine.

\* (The reference to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in compliance with [Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1244(1999))).

**European Union, Western European and other States:**

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Middle East and North Africa:**

Middle East and the Gulf States: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, State of Palestine, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

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