STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

GENEVA (20 August 2021) - The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities honours our colleague and friend, Ms Soumia Amrani who passed away on Wednesday 18 August 2021 from coronavirus.

Ms Amrani was a well-known and well-respected advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, in particular autistic people. She began her advocacy as the mother of an autistic woman and became a leader among organisations of persons with disabilities. She was the founding President of the Autism Morocco Collective and elected to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2020.

During Ms Amrani’s time on the Committee, she distinguished herself as having strong policy analysis and expertise and she contributed to our work in the critical area of implementation of international human rights law obligations. She was particularly passionate about the right to inclusive education, the rights of women and girls with disabilities and the right to live independently and be included in the community.

We are all saddened by Soumia’s passing. We send our deepest condolences to her family, her community and the Moroccan and North African disability rights community. We have lost the opportunity to benefit from her expertise, and the disability rights movement has lost a true champion.

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