**Subject: Questionnaire on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to the Highest**

**Attainable Standard of Health**

**1. Please provide information on existing or planned legislation and policies to ensure the realization of the right of health of persons with disabilities including current challenges and good practices:**

Response:

Law No.8 of 2010 concerning the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued in the Official Gazette No. 964 dated 28/2/2018 includes in some of its articles the State's obligation to provide medical, preventive and rehabilitative services, psychological treatment and genetic counseling prior to marriage and before and during pregnancy. In accordance with the law, Kuwait is committed to taking all appropriate measures to reduce the causes of disability, in addition pays for abroad medical treatment if necessary.

In addition, the State of Kuwait is committed, in accordance with the above-mentioned law, to provide specialized trained medical and technical staff to provide treatments and services for persons with disabilities in all medical centers and government hospitals in the country, complying with the equality principle guaranteed by the Constitution of Kuwait. As well as providing medical care and physiotherapy for persons with disabilities at home.

The medical services are integrated with social services to protect the privacy of persons with disabilities, which is the base for the PWD protection in Kuwait, and this should not affect the importance of the family role and obligation toward members with disabilities. Moreover, the family and the caretaker should notify Public Authority of the Disabled (PADA) and other related authorities of any change in the health status, death or illness or even change in personal data of the person with disability.

**2. Please provide any information and statistical data (including surveys, censuses, administrative data, literature, reports and studies) related to the exercise of the right to health of persons with disabilities in general, as well as with particular in a focus on the following areas:**

* **Availability of barrier free general healthcare services and programs which take intoaccount all accessibility aspects of persons with disabilities;**
* **Access to free or affordable healthcare services and programs, including mental health services, services related to HIV/AIDA and universal health coverage;**
* **Access to tree or affordable disability-specific healthcare services and programs; and**
* **Access to free or affordable health-related habilitation, and rehabilitation, goods and services, including early identification and intervention.**

Response:

Within PADA framework and Law No. 8 of 2010 on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, some of its articles state clearly the obligation of government entities to provide healthcare services for persons with disabilities; all the healthcare services are free and accessible by PWD.

With regard to rehabilitation, the State of Kuwait is committed to provide vocational training and rehabilitation centers for persons with disabilities, and provide care center with primary healthcare services when needed.

In addition, in accordance with law, PADA provide free assistive devices for persons with disabilities, this includes wheelchairs and hearing devices.

**3**. **Please provide information on discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of healthcare, health insurance and/or life insurance by public or private service provides.**

Response

PADA is morally and legally committed to refer all complaints and grievances submitted by persons with disabilities or their representatives to the relevant security and judicial authorities if there is any indication of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

**4**. **Please provide information on the observance of the right to free and informed consent persons with disabilities regarding healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health and mental health services.**

Response

Not applicable to PADA, as this is under the Ministry of Health responsibility.

**5**. **Please describe to what extent and how persons with disabilities and the organizations representing them participate in the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS.**

Response

PADA regularly invites PWD to participation and contribution in the preparation and planning in all disability matters, especially related to health. Moreover, they have representative(s) in the PADA board and higher council of disability.

Finally, we hope that we were be able to respond to the questionnaire as required and we are delighted to make any clarification or elaboration based on your request.

Sincerely

*Dr.* Shafiqa Al.,Awadhi

Director General

Public Authority for the Disable