



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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REFERENCE: OHCHR/TESRPRD/DESIB/HRESIS

Subject: Human Rights Council resolution 55/8

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presents its compliments to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and has the honour to refer to Human Rights Council resolution 55/8 ([A/HRC/RES/55/8](#)) on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The above-mentioned resolution requests the OHCHR “to prepare its next annual thematic study on the rights of persons with disabilities on the rights of persons with disabilities and digital technologies and devices, including assistive technologies, [...] in consultation with States and other relevant stakeholders, regional organizations, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and other relevant special procedure mandate holders, civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, and national human rights institutions, requiring contributions to be submitted in an accessible format, and requests that such stakeholder contributions, the [study itself] and an easy-to-read-version of [it] be made available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner, in an accessible format, prior to the [...] fifty-eighth” session of the Human Rights Council (paragraph 14).

This report is based on the previous reports ([A/HRC/52/52](#) and [A/HRC/55/34](#)) on support systems to ensure community inclusion of persons with disabilities, including as a means of building forward better after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and good practices of support systems enabling community inclusion of persons with disabilities; respectively, deepening on two areas identified there in.

The OHCHR would be grateful to receive any relevant information for the preparation of this study. In particular, we welcome views and information in relation to the following questions.

Governance, Access to Information and Privacy

1. How are digital technologies currently used in your country/region for governance coordination, including in care and support system transformation efforts, and people-centred social protection services for persons with disabilities?
2. What are the main challenges and successes in using digital technologies to facilitate access to information, social protection, and other essential services for persons with disabilities (e.g. human support - personal assistance, sign interpretation -, transport, assistive technologies, housing and deinstitutionalization services)?
3. What measures are you implementing to protect the right to privacy in the use of digital technologies?

Digital Technologies as Assistive Technologies

4. How are digital technologies integrated as assistive technologies in personalized support plans (e.g. Remote sign language interpretation, image reading apps, voice-controlled assistants, screen readers, text-to-speech and speech-to-text applications, eye-tracking technology, adaptive keyboards and mice, AAC devices, navigation aids, wearable technology)?
5. What barriers exist in accessing these digital assistive technologies and how can they be addressed?

Access and Affordability of Assistive Technologies

6. What is the current state of access to assistive technologies in your country/region, particularly in rural areas and among marginalized groups?
7. What measures are being taken to improve the affordability and availability of these assistive technologies (e.g. cash transfers, market shaping to reduce added value chain costs, logistics, etc)?

Integration and Quality of Assistive Technologies

8. How are assistive technologies integrated with health and social services in your country/region?
9. What steps are being taken to ensure the quality and cultural relevance of assistive technologies?

Policy, Training, and Innovation

10. What policies and legislation support the use and development of assistive technologies in your country/region, and what improvements would you recommend?
11. What training and awareness programs exist for users and service providers, and what gaps need to be addressed to enhance the effectiveness of these programs?

General information

12. Please provide any other relevant information and good examples on the use of digital technologies and assistive technologies as a means to reduce time invested in unpaid care work, including quantification of the impact of these technologies under time use surveys or similar.

The OHCHR would be grateful to receive relevant information at United Nations Office at Geneva, CH 1211 Geneva 10; fax. +41 22 917 90 08; e-mail: ohchr-registry@un.org; by 1 September 2024, in accessible format so that it can be posted on OHCHR's website. Please do not hesitate to contact OHCHR's Human Rights and Disability Unit at ohchr-disability@un.org or Ms. Martyna Balciunaite at martyna.balciunaite@un.org for further information or clarification.

The OHCHR avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration to all Permanent and Observers Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva.



Geneva, 5 July 2024