4 May 2023

**CYPRUS’ INPUT REGARDING HRC/UNGA RES 44/10**

**Subject: Rebuilding Inclusive Socieites in Post-Conflict Situations – the active involvement of Persons with Disabilities**

Cyprus welcomes the efforts by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities to document the issue and present a comprehensive report for the UN General Assembly later this year.

**Contribution of Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare**

After the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, the Republic of Cyprus has adopted its National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2018-2028, and implements three-yearly National Disability Action Plans, defining the vision, values, strategic goals and actions for further fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities, in all areas of their life, as well as the specific actions to be implemented by various ministries, public services and other agencies.

2. The Disability Strategy and Action Plans are linked to the concluding observations made to the Republic of Cyprus by the UN Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2017 and take into account the opinions and suggestions of the organizations representing persons with disabilities.

3. Addressing risk situations, situations of armed conflict, natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies is the responsibility of various services in Cyprus and depending on the nature and severity of the situation it may involve the Civil Defense of the Ministry of Interior, the Cyprus Police and the Cyprus Fire Service of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order and the National Guard of Cyprus.

4. There is also no restriction regarding the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life and more specifically on the right to vote, while facilities are provided, both through the prerogatives of electoral law and practical arrangements for the exercise of this right. As far as the right to be elected, there is also no restriction in general for people with disabilities, only to persons suffering from mental illness which makes them unable to perform duties.

5. The involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction and peacebuilding is encouraged.

6. Cyprus is open for possible cooperation with other states in order to expand its actions for the ultimate goal, the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities and the realization to the fullest extent possible of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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