

**LEGISLATIVE MEASURE TO FULFILL JORDAN OBLIGATIONS
UNDER THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)**

Submitted on behalf of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of
Jordan by the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities

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I. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. It was opened for signature on March 30, 2007 and entered into force on May 3, 2008 after the Convention received its 20th ratification, and the Optional Protocol received 10 ratifications.
2. Jordan was among the first countries to sign the CRPD and its Optional Protocol on March 30, 2007. On March 31, 2008, Jordan was the first Arab country to complete its ratification process. The CRPD entered into force on May 1st, 2008, on the thirtieth day after Jordan deposited the CRPD.
3. The Government of Jordan is currently studying the possibility of ratifying the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
4. The first session of the Conference of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities took place in New York on the 31 October and the 3rd November 2008. The Conference held an interactive panel discussion entitled "The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a human rights instrument and a tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals" and elected twelve members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
5. An independent Jordanian expert with disability, Engineer Mohammad Al Tarawneh, was elected to serve as a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is the

body of independent experts to monitor the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties.

6. During the first session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was held on February 23-27, 2009 in Geneva, Engineer Mohammad Al Tarawneh was elected as Chair of the Committee for the duration of the year ending in 2010.
7. This report outlines legislative measures to fulfill Jordan obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) prepared by the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities on behalf of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

II. Measures Related to CRPD Substantive Obligations

1. INTRODUCTORY ARTICLES 1 AND 2:

- a. Jordan firmly believes in the purpose of the Convention stipulated under article 1 of the CRPD.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES ARTICLE 3:

- a. Jordan believes in the principles of the Convention set out in article 3 of the CRPD. Those include: respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, non-discrimination, inclusion, respect for difference, equality of opportunity, accessibility, respect of the evolving capacity of children and gender equity.

3. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS ARTICLE 4:

- a. In accordance with article 4.1 of the CRPD, Jordan has initiated a process of changing national legislation, steps taken in that regard include:
 - i. The Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities # 31 for the year 2007 was adopted in 2007 in accordance with article 4.1a of the CRPD.

- ii. The Law of the Welfare of Disabled People # 12 for the year 1993 was abolished;
 - iii. Under the auspices of the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities, a working group was established in accordance with article 4.1.b of the CRPD to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities.
- b. In accordance with article 4.1 of the CRPD, Jordan has taken into account the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programmes. Steps taken in that regard include:
- i. Developing and adopting the National Strategy for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (2007-2015). The Strategy includes ten pillars, covering areas such as: health and disability, education and higher education, work and employment, culture, sports and recreation, social protection and family empowerment, accessibility, media and communications, habilitation and rehabilitation, equal opportunity and public life in addition to a pillar related to legislative measures.
 - ii. To monitor the implementation of the Strategy, the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities was established. The Council was established by virtue of article 6 of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities number 31 for the year 2007.
 - iii. The Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (HCAPD) is an independent public entity headed by HRH Prince Raad bin Zaid, Lord Chamberlain. The Council is funded by State allocations, and is the main umbrella organization of disability affairs in the Kingdom. The Council included government representatives, as well as disability representatives and representatives of the non-governmental sector, as well as experts of the disability field.

- iv. A National Review Conference is scheduled to be held on November 25-26, 2009. The objective of the Conference is to review progress made during the first phase of the Strategy which ends in 2009. The review conference is expected to provide the government with a status report on efforts taken to create a more inclusive society.
- v. Action plans to implement the National Strategy for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities will be launched in March 2010.
- c. In accordance with article 4.3 of the CRPD, Jordan has taken into account close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of the Law and the Strategy. Moreover, 7 representatives of physical, visual hearing disabilities and families of intellectual disabilities reside as board members of the HCAPD.
- d. Persons with disabilities are represented in all relevant policy making committees and were asked to present their views in the Strategy Review Process.

4. IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING MEASURES ARTICLES 31-40

- a. In accordance with article 33.a the Cabinet has appointed the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (HCAPD) as the government focal point mandated to implement the CRPD on the inter-ministerial level.
- b. In accordance with article 33.b the National Centre for Human Rights has established an independent monitoring committee to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the national level.