

Fourth Conference of States Parties

San Marino Statement

**Round Table 2 on Article 29,
“Ensuring Effective and Full Participation in Political and Public Life”**

United Nation, New York; September 8, 2011

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentleman,

My name is Mirko Tomassoni from the Republic of San Marino.

I'm a the Head of the delegation of the San Marino Commission for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in my country and I'm President of an NGO called Attiva-Mente.

I'm also a Parliamentar, Member of various Commissions among wich, the National San Marino Commission in the Interparliamentar Union (IPU) .As you know, IPU has published an handbook, translated in many languages, to promote the CRDP, raccomandando to their Parliaments from all over the world the partecipazione of people with disabilities to the political-parliamentary life.

CRPD already signed and ratified by many countries around the world. The Republic of San Marino has been among the first to do so.

Regarding article 29, I want to add a comment about my personal political experience.

I was just a citizen of our small Republic, active in volunteers organization. In 2006 I decided to partecipate to the political life of my country, and on 1° October 2007 I was elected Head of State (Captain Regent). During my mandate, I had the honor to give a

speech at the UN General Assembly as Head of State on the children rights. After that speech, many barriers in San Marino disappeared and my country few months after my intervention at the General Assembly ratified the CRPD, exactly on 22th of february 2008

Currently I am still part of San Marino's parliament, and I delighted to report that my role has becoming an effective instrument to awaken the government and public opinion on the issue of equal opportunity for the disabled, an issue I have been working on for many years.

Therefore I'm a strong believer that Art 29 is very relevant vis a vis the public and political life. We must increase our efforts.

Before ending, I would like to inform you that San Marino CRPD Commission wants organize in the near future in San Marino a meeting for small countries to share the work we have done and to discuss our law based on the CRPD. Please anyone who is interested, let me know.

I thank you for your kind attention