

MISION PERMANENTE DE
CHILE
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS



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Intervención

Sra. María Ximena Rivas

**Directora del Servicio Nacional de la Discapacidad de Chile
(SENADIS)**

**III Conferencia de Estados Partes de la Convención de los Derechos
de las Personas con Discapacidad
Nueva York, 2 de septiembre de 2010**

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Statement by

Mrs. María Ximena Rivas

**Director of the National Service for Persons with Disabilities of Chile
(SENADIS)**

**Third Conference of the States Parties
to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
New York, 2 September 2010**

The ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was the first big step taken by Chile on the road to social inclusion and set the major challenge of generating a new type of public policy.

For example, in line with the Convention, in February 2010 Chile acquired a new legislative framework: Act No. 20.422 establishing rules on equality of opportunity and social inclusion of persons with disabilities and implementing institutional change by creating a Committee of Ministers on Disability, an Advisory Council on Disability and the multisectoral National Disability Service.

This multisectoral approach implies a comprehensive institutional vision of disability, reflected in the Committee of Ministers, which is composed of the Ministers of Education, Health, Labour and Social Security, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Transport and Telecommunications and is headed by the Minister of Planning, who is to become the new Minister of Social Development. In addition, civil society is also represented through the Advisory Council, which is part of the Service and consists of national organizations representing every type of disability and members of institutions dealing with disability. Both the Committee and the Council formulate public policies focused on the all-round development of persons with disabilities, based on a first-hand knowledge of needs and allowing such persons to participate at all levels – in other words, in the design, implementation and evaluation of related policies, plans and programmes.

International cooperation networks are being strengthened and promoted, so that our public policies on disability can be brought into line with international standards. A cooperation agreement exists with the European Union for implementation of the project entitled “Monitoring, evaluation and strengthening of decentralized policies for social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Chile”, funding three products: an inclusion seal and index, a National Disability Plan, 2010-2018, and revision of the various national statistical instruments to include variable disability efficiently and mechanisms to provide accurate and ongoing information on persons with disabilities at the commune level, so that public policies can be specific and reflect real needs.

By special request of President Sebastian Piñera, we are in the process of implementing Act No. 20.422 and, accordingly, the 13 regulations established by the Act are being drafted. In this implementation process, we are constantly aiming at a comprehensive and multisectoral vision of disability in the various institutions involved.

Although all areas are important, because of the earthquake and tsunami that struck our country last February the different institutions are this year working in coordination, especially with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, which is in charge of reconstruction, so as to ensure that all the cities and sectors that were damaged are rebuilt in accordance with universal design criteria, which will enable us to be pioneers in creating accessible cities. We are convinced of the importance of the task, since we know that the ability to move freely and independently is a fundamental right.

We shall also work in all sectors to achieve equality of opportunity and full social inclusion of persons with disabilities, so that Chile will be a fair and equitable country and, hopefully, a leader as regards inclusion.

Thank you.