



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
B U L G A R I A  
T O T H E U N I T E D N A T I O N S**

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**Human Rights Council  
Social Forum  
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**Persons with disabilities: 10 years after the CRPD**

**Panel 1: Setting the scene: From needs to rights - Advances and challenges**

**H.E. Mr. Georgi Panayotov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN, President-Elect of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Video Message

**Mr. Moderator,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First and foremost, I want to stress that Bulgaria is strongly committed to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and as President of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention will continue to actively promote the full realization of the human rights of persons with disabilities at all levels.

The Government of Bulgaria undertakes sustained and coordinated measures for ensuring the participation of disabled persons in society on an equal basis with others and for improving their well-being with a special focus on children and youth with disabilities.

Bulgarian legislation provides guarantees of non-discrimination and of equal opportunities to all. All policies and programmes on disability follow a human-rights-based approach.

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and it is encouraging to see the stable trend towards universal ratification with 167 States Parties already.

The implementation of the Convention is further strengthened by the ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which for the first time has included persons with disabilities as agents in global action. Bulgaria was an active participant in the SDGs negotiations strongly advocating for the inclusion of the human rights of persons with disabilities in all relevant Goals and in the Political Declaration. Bulgaria attaches great importance to the implementation of the SDGs from the perspective of the human rights of persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD. Only if we manage to fully include persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda, can we ensure that indeed no one is left behind.

I would like to highlight the important role of civil society, and in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in the discussions, planning, implementation and monitoring of decision-making processes that impact their lives. The CRPD is well-known as a unique treaty that recognizes the role of the people whom it is trying to impact. It brings together Member States, Disabled Persons Organizations, donors, Non-governmental Organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and UN Agencies to discuss ways of better implementing the Convention. In this regard a possible overall theme of the next Conference could be “how to ensure the full and equal participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the CRPD”.

The Conference of States Parties to the CRPD is a platform where the fruitful partnership with civil society and disabled persons organizations can be realized in line with Article 4.3 of the CRPD. The Conference of States Parties is very much a space that should be utilized as the standard bearer for how the UN, Member States and disabled persons implement the core principles of the CRPD. It is also a Conference that embraces both human rights and development issues. It is a space to set a high standard and to illustrate just how much more we can achieve when we work together.

**Thank you!**