



**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**

11 East 84th Street, New York, NY 10028, Tel: (212) 737 4790, Fax: (212) 472 9865, e-mail: bulgaria@un.int

High-level panel meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

New York, 2 December 2016, CR 4

H.E. Mr. Georgi Panayotov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the initiative of the President of the General Assembly H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson for organizing today's High-level meeting of the General Assembly to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and also the International Day for Persons with Disabilities - A Day for All, with the active participation of all stakeholders, especially persons with disabilities themselves and their representative organizations.

The Government of Bulgaria is strongly committed to the implementation of the Convention and undertakes sustained and coordinated measures for ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities in society on an equal basis with others. 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.

As President-elect of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the period 2017 - 2018 Bulgaria will continue to actively promote the full realization of the human rights of persons with disabilities at all levels as well as for the implementation of the Convention and increasing the number of the States Parties. It is encouraging to see the stable trend towards universal ratification with 169 States Parties already. Only this year seven new countries joined the Convention which is commendable.

Mr. President,

I would like to highlight the important role of civil society, and in particular disabled persons organizations, in the discussions, planning, implementation and monitoring of decision-making processes specifically related to persons with disabilities and the implementation of the Convention. 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.

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.

Bulgaria fully supports the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for further promoting the implementation of the Convention and advancing the human rights of persons with disabilities worldwide.

Bulgaria commends also the sustained efforts of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar for her contribution to mainstreaming the human rights of persons with disabilities within the work of the UN.

Thank you, Mr. President!