

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Slovakia*

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the combined second and third periodic reports of Slovakia at its 855th and 856th meetings, held on 20 August 2026. It adopted the present concluding observations at its 865th meeting, held on 27 August 2026.
2. The Committee welcomes the second and third periodic reports Slovakia¹, which was prepared accordance with the Committee's reporting guidelines, and in response to its list of issues prior to reporting².
3. The Committee appreciates the constructive dialogue held with the State Party's delegation and welcomes the further clarifications provided in response to the questions posed orally by the Committee.

II. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State Party to implement the Convention since the Committee's previous concluding observations,³ issued in 2016. It particularly appreciates the following legislation, public policies and institutional framework:
 - (a) Act No 406/2025 introducing a system of assistance for reliance on the assistance of another natural person;
 - (b) Act No. 98/2025 Coll. increasing the threshold for accessing legal aid services, including for persons with disabilities;
 - (c) Construction Act and the Spatial Planning Act in 2025, which replaced the Act No. 50/1976 Coll. on Spatial Planning and Building Regulations (the Building Act), expanding accessibility requirements for all buildings and areas intended for public use;
 - (d) Act No. 332/2023 Coll. on Public Passenger Transport and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts defining conditions for accessibility and fare policy, including for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility;
 - (e) Decree No. 269/2024 Coll. implementing certain provisions of the Act on Public Passenger Transport;
 - (f) Decree No. 78/2020 of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Informatisation on standards for public administration information technologies,

* Adopted by the Committee at its thirty-fifth session (12–27 August 2026).

¹ [CRPD/C/SVK/2-3](#)

² [CRPD/C/SVK/QPR/2-3](#)

³ [CRPD/C/SVK/Q/1](#)

implementing the WCGA 2.1 recommendations and EU Directive 2016/2102 on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public institutions;

(g) Act No. 95/2019 Coll. on Information Technologies in Public Administration, concerning accessibility of the internet, mobile applications and information systems;

(h) National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management (adopted in 2025) recognizing disability as one of the vulnerability factors affecting individuals in international protection proceedings;

(i) National strategy for the Development of Early Intervention and Early Care 2022-2030 adopted on 28 June 2022 and its two action plans for 2023-2025 and for 2026-2030, aimed at developing support for the comprehensive development and social inclusion of all children in need of assistance, including children with disabilities; ;

(j) National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Persons with Disabilities for the Years 2021- 2030 and its annual reports for the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

5. The Committee also welcomes the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism.

III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1–4)

6. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) Section 6 of article 7 of the constitutional amendment of 2025 by which the State retains sovereignty in relation to traditional values and national identity, including personal status, protection of life and human dignity, marriage, parenthood, family life, and decision-making in matters of health, education and science. Such provisions may render several State party's obligation pursuant to the Convention inapplicable at the domestic level and result in unequal treatment and discrimination against persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ persons with disabilities;

(b) The persistence of the medical model of disability in conducting disability assessments;

(c) The lack of comprehensive policies and plans for implementing the Convention, including budget allocations and goals for measuring progress in key areas.

7. **Recalling its concluding observations of 2016, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:**

(a) Reaffirm the domestic applicability of the Convention in all areas of life, conduct a comprehensive review of domestic legislation, including the Constitution, with the aim to bring them into line with the Convention; withdraw measures incompatible with the Convention, including those restricting the scope of autonomy, equality and self-determination of women with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ persons with disabilities;

(b) Develop guidance concerning disability assessments that comply with the human rights model of disability, including needs-based assessments that identifies barriers to participation and inclusion in community life instead of diagnostic classifications and intensity of impairment;

(c) Allocate budgets for the implementation of measures supporting persons with disabilities to exercise their rights in all areas of life on an equal basis with others.

8. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Limited information on mechanisms in place for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, and the legal entrenchment of such mechanisms;

(b) The negative impact of the erosion of civic space and the rule of law on the participation of persons with disabilities in public decision-making, including insufficient protection against reprisals;

(c) The lack of information about support, including funding and capacity building activities, for organizations of persons with disabilities.

9. **Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Establish legally entrenched mechanisms for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of legislation and policies implementing the Convention, in Parliament, the Government Council, the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, the Commissioner for Children and Youth, the Committee for Gender Equality and other decision-making bodies of self-governing regions, districts, municipalities and higher territorial units;**

(b) **Build the capacity of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in their participation in public life, refrain from eroding civic space and effectively protect persons with disabilities and their representative organizations from reprisals against their participation in public discourse;**

(c) **Ensure sufficient funding of organizations of persons with disabilities to allow them to effectively participate in public discourse and governmental decision-making processes, and support capacity building measures aimed at strengthening their advocacy role at the national, regional and international level.**

B. Specific rights (arts. 5–30)

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

10. The Committee remains concerned:

(a) That the Anti-Discrimination Act (No. 365/2004 Coll) continues to limit the duty to provide reasonable accommodation to employment (Section 7) and does not recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination based on disability;

(b) That children and older persons with disabilities and persons with intensive support needs, including persons with Spina Bifida and hydrocephalus, face intersectional discrimination resulting in restrictions in their access to support, including personal assistance and assistive devices;

(c) About intersectional discrimination against women and girls, Roma, migrants, asylum seekers, refugee and LGBTIQ+ persons with disabilities, and the limited information about the impact of policies against such discrimination;

(d) About information on wide-spread discrimination of Roma persons with disabilities in the provision of essential services;

(e) About limited recent information on access by persons with disabilities to complaints procedures in cases of discrimination, and on barriers for persons with disabilities

to file complaints in cases of multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, the lack of accessibility systems to submit complaints and the lack of access to legal counselling.

11. With reference to its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and recalling its previous concluding observations and recommendations CRPD/C/SVK/CO -paras. 14-20, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Amend the Anti-Discrimination Act to recognize reasonable accommodation in all areas of life and recognise that the denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability;

(b) Adopt legal provisions and a comprehensive policy to address inequality and discrimination, including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, against all persons with disabilities, and introduce indicators of progress, specific targets and human, technical and financial resources concerning the situation and rights of women and girls with disabilities, Roma, migrant, asylum seeking, refugee and LGBTIQ+ and gender diverse persons with disabilities, including in programmes financed by the Ministry of Justice and other departments;

(c) Adopt explicit legal prohibitions against discrimination of Roma persons with disabilities and ensure non-discriminatory culturally appropriate provision of services;

(d) Create accessible procedures to file complaints against discrimination, including through the denial of reasonable accommodation, for all persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities deprived of their legal capacity, persons with disabilities still in institutions, and persons with disabilities in rural areas and in Roma communities. Disseminate information on the Convention and its implementation in all areas of life, and on available complaint mechanisms, in accessible formats, including Easy Read, Braille, and sign language. Render legal counseling on the rights of persons with disabilities accessible to all persons with disabilities.

Women and girls with disabilities (art. 6)

12. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The lack of legislation, public policies and programmes aimed at ensuring gender equality and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in society and that the National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions of Persons with Disabilities and the National Strategy for Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities 2021–2027 does not fully address the situation of women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The lack of disability-disaggregated national data about the situation and rights of women and girls with disabilities, including the impact of gender-based violence and other factors that impede the realization of their rights, including socioeconomic status, belonging to Roma communities, age, guardianship situation, living in institutions, living in rural areas, or their migrant, asylum-seeker or refugee situation.

13. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and its previous concluding observations (para. 22) and recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all disability-related legislation and in strategies aimed at realizing gender equality;

(b) Develop legislation, strategies and action plans to abolish intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, based on gender, age, ethnic origin, place of birth, migrant status, LGBTIQ+ status, gender diverse and place of living, and implement them expeditiously.

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

14. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of data collection and information about access of children with disabilities to services in the community on an equal basis with other children (CRPD/C/SVK/2-3, para. 23);

(b) Insufficient and late referral of children with disabilities to education and other services, largely due to a seemingly wide-spread lack of information on these services, especially among primary pediatricians;

(c) The lack of reasonable accommodation, insufficient availability of community-based support services for families of children with disabilities, and the transfer of responsibility for support measures and personal assistance to parents;

(d) Barriers, including physical barriers to schools, attitudinal barriers among personnel working with children, fragmented and unevenly available support across regions, elevated costs for children of families on low income, preventing children with disabilities, including children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus from accessing support services, including early intervention, rehabilitation and health care, and inclusion in preschool and school environments;

(e) The lack of information about application of the best interests of the child and to ensure that the views of children with disabilities are duly considered in decisions affecting them.

15. **Recalling the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State Party seeks technical cooperation of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and:**

(a) Establish data collection systems about the situation of children with disabilities in all areas of the country and in institutions, and disaggregate data by age, sex, gender, language, national, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, migrant status, place of birth and place of residency;

(b) Establish transparent procedures for the referral of children with disabilities to education and other services, with clear responsibilities and competencies, and inform all administrative entities and individuals involved in such procedures, including primary paediatricians;

(c) Establish coordinated support systems to ensure the availability and accessibility of community-based support for children with disabilities, including reasonable accommodation, and ensure that support, including personal assistance is available beyond parental caregiving responsibilities;

(d) Ensure accessibility, affordability, availability and culturally appropriate services in the community for children with disabilities across all regions, regardless type of impairment or socioeconomic background of their families, and raise awareness among staff personnel about equality of children with disabilities with other children and their right to full and effective participation and inclusion with appropriate support;

(e) Ensure that children with disabilities can in fact express their views freely on all matters affecting them, including through the provision of support and accessible communication and age-appropriate procedures for participation in decision-making, including family matters.

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

16. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Derogatory remarks in public by high-ranking members of the Government against persons with disabilities;

(b) Seemingly wide-spread stereotypes about persons with disabilities, including gender and age stereotypes;

(c) Scarce information on measures to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities and prevent harmful effects of public speech.

17. The Committee reiterates its previous concluding observations and recommendations (para. 28) and recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Establish accountability mechanisms to effectively prevent derogatory and stereotypical public comments by officials of the State, including at the highest echelon;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy with short- and long-term goals aimed at raising awareness about the dignity and equal rights of persons with disabilities among public officials and private actors, including service providers, and combat prejudice against support measures for persons with disabilities. Include appropriate training, awareness-raising programs and procedures to report and investigate incidents of ableism, ageism, and gender stereotypes.

Accessibility (art. 9)

18. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The lack of technical standards for the implementation of the accessibility provisions in the Building Code, of procedures to assess the accessibility of structures and buildings, and the lack of requirements on accessibility for apartment buildings, including common parts of apartment building, such as intercoms, elevators, and information systems, including fire alarms;

(b) Delays in the implementation of accessibility legislation due to transition periods, including in the case of provisions on accessibility of information and communications technologies, like in the Act No. 95/2019 Coll. on Information Technologies in Public Administration and in the Decree No. 78/2020 of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Informatisation on standards for public administration information technologies;

(c) The lack of measures to remedy non-compliance with accessibility requirements and to render existing buildings and structures accessible;

(d) Insufficient requirements of accessibility in public procurement of structures, buildings, goods and services, and a lack of accessibility of public procurement processes;

(e) The lack of accessibility requirements for public transportation not governed by European Union law, and slow progress in the development of an accessible infrastructure and vehicles of public transport, by train, bus, boat and airplane, including for persons with hearing or vision impairments.

19. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Expedite the process to adopt mandatory technical standards on accessibility for the implementation of the Building Act and the Spatial Planning Act, including measures to prevent the development of non-accessible buildings, and the renovation of non-accessible buildings without rendering them accessible, including apartment buildings;

(b) Accelerate the adoption of regulations required to implement provisions on accessibility of information and communications technologies, as contained in Act No. 95/2019 Coll. and Decree No. 78/2020;

(c) Adopt regulations and processes to ensure the prevention, identification and removal of barriers to access the physical environment, information and

communication, including access to general services and facilities provided to the public;

(d) **Establish accessibility requirement in all public procurement processes of structures, buildings, goods and services, and render public procurement processes accessible;**

(e) **Enact accessibility legislation and standards for all public transportation not governed by EU law. Expedite the development of accessible infrastructure and transport vehicles of public transport by train, bus, boat, and airplane, including for persons with hearing or vision impairments; set mandatory time frames and establish mechanisms monitoring the progress.**

Right to life (art. 10)

20. The Committee notes with concern the lack of data collection, independent assessments and mandatory reporting of deaths in psychiatric settings;

21. **The Committee recommends that the State Party establish a legislative, policy and administrative framework to ensure systematic data collection, mandatory reporting and independent investigation and monitoring of deaths in psychiatric settings, including mandatory independent autopsies.**

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

22. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Insufficient formal and dedicated mechanisms for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in humanitarian emergencies, civil protection planning and other areas of risk;

(b) Insufficient accessible information about access to humanitarian aid for persons with disabilities in the context of emergencies, in particular for persons with disabilities living in institutions.

23. **Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and its own guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022),⁴ the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Strengthen legislation and policy in relation to humanitarian emergencies, civil protection planning and other areas of risk, including in the Civil Protection Plan, the Evacuation Plan, the Shelter Plan and the Assistance Provision Plan by establishing formal mechanisms for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations;**

(b) **Strengthen efforts to ensure the availability of accessible information, such as Easy Read and other alternative means of communication about emergency response and support for persons with disabilities in risk situations, including for persons with disabilities in institutions.**

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

24. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The ongoing use of substitute decision-making, and that the draft of the new Civil Code (LP/2025/486) retains restrictions of legal capacity and is based on the ‘best interest’ principle;

(b) Persons with disabilities being denied management of their financial affairs through the appointment of administrators for persons with restricted legal capacity, including under the draft new Civil Code.

⁴ CRPD/C/5.

25. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law and recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Take legislative, policy and administrative measures to end substitute decision-making, including through the withdrawal of provisions in the draft new Civil Code that restrict legal capacity and establish supported decision-making mechanisms that uphold the autonomy, will and preference of persons with disabilities;

(b) Take legislative, policy and administrative measures to end compulsory financial management through the appointment of administrators for persons with restricted legal capacity, including provisions within the draft new Civil Code, and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to accessible information and training on financial management, and the supports required to independently access banking and other financial services.

Access to justice (art. 13)

26. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The insufficient provision of procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodations in all judicial and administrative proceedings and the lack of adequate training for judicial and administrative personnel on procedural accommodation and access to justice for persons with disabilities;

(b) The lack of formal, accessible complaints' mechanisms for reporting complaints of violence for persons with disabilities in institutions and a dismissal of testimonies of women with disabilities in cases of violence due to negative stereotypes about their credibility by paramedics, first responders and among judicial officers;

(c) Income threshold barriers for persons with disabilities to access free legal aid, despite the reform to Act No. 98/2025 Coll., and barriers to accessing independent legal assistance for persons with disabilities living in social care institutions, including through the denial of legal capacity.

27. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, of 2020, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Amend the procedural rules in the criminal, civil, labour and administrative law to ensure procedural and gender and age-appropriate accommodations are provided to persons with disabilities in all proceedings on a no cost basis and ensure appropriate training of those working in the field of the administration of justice, including the judiciary and the police on procedural accommodation and access to justice for persons with disabilities;

(b) Introduce accessible complaints mechanisms for persons with disabilities still in institutions, including protocols and processes to address complaints and respond to violence in institutions; remove communication barriers and restrictions for persons with disabilities to participate as witnesses in judicial proceedings, including for women with disabilities in institutions; and combat negative stereotypes held by personnel in institutions, paramedics, first responders and among judicial officers about the credibility of reports of violence to prevent dismissal of complaints;

(c) Revise and periodically adjust income threshold limits, including in Act No. 98/2025 Coll., to ensure that all persons with disabilities on low incomes, including Roma persons with disabilities can access free legal aid, expand the capacity of the Centre for Legal Aid to provide counselling and representation of persons with disabilities in institutions, and ensure that legal aid is provided in the scope of criminal procedures.

Liberty and security of person (art. 14)

28. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Provisions in the Health Care Act allow for involuntary hospitalisation and forced treatment;

(b) Persons with disabilities can be involuntarily detained in social care institutions;

(c) The State party's support for the process of the draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine 'concerning the protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities in relation to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment in mental health services', which is incompatible with the Convention.

29. **In accordance with the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities,⁵ and the Committee's public statement of 1st July 2026 concerning the Council of Europe process to adopt an additional protocol to the Bioethics Convention⁶, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:**

(a) Repeal provisions allowing for involuntary hospitalization under the Health Care Act and develop non-coercive, community-based and peer-led mental health supports;

(b) Review Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to accessible review mechanisms that respect the will and preference of persons with disabilities to prevent deprivation of liberty in social care institutions;

(c) Withdraw support for the adoption of the Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine.

Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 15)

30. The Committee notes with concern the ongoing regulation of the use of coercion and restraints on persons with disabilities, including physical, mechanical and chemical restraints and the use of isolation rooms.

31. The Committee recommends that, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, the State Party amends all laws, policies and practices that regulate the use of coercion and restraints on persons with disabilities in health and social care settings with a view to prohibiting the use of coercion and restraint and developing non-coercive community-based supports and services.

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)

32. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The prevalence of all forms of violence, including gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The systemic prevalence of violence in institutional settings, in particular for women with disabilities;

(c) Insufficient recovery, rehabilitation and social integration for persons with disabilities who have experienced violence;

(d) The decision not to ratify the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe.

⁵ A/72/55, annex.

⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crpd/statements-declarations-and-observations>

33. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021,⁷ in which it called for action to be taken to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and recalling targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Review the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2022-2027 and the work of The Coordination-Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women (KMC) to ensure that the specific forms of violence experienced by women and girls with disabilities and the settings in which it occurs is recognised and addressed within all priority areas and actions;

(b) Take all legislative, administrative and policy measures, including gender and age-appropriate measures to prevent and respond to violence in institutions, including expediting the deinstitutionalisation process and ensuring the full implementation of the Committee's recommendations in *Černáková v. Slovakia*⁸ (2026);

(c) Expedite the implementation of the Directive (EU) 2026/1472 of 17 June 2026 amending Directive 2012/29/EU (Victim Rights Directive) and ensure the provision of recovery, rehabilitation, social reintegration for persons with disabilities, including those in institutions;

(d) Reconsider ratification of the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe.

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

34. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Sterilisation procedures performed on women and girls with disabilities through third party consent, including consent by guardians is not recognised as involuntary sterilisation;

(b) The lack of an overarching legislative and policy framework to protect the rights of intersex children, including protection from unnecessary medical interventions and sex normalising surgeries.

35. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Prohibit sterilisation of women and girls with disabilities based on third party consent, including consent by guardians and adopt legislative, administrative and policy measures for reparation and compensation for all survivors of forced sterilization;

(b) Establish an overarching legislative and policy framework to protect the rights of intersex children, including prohibition of unnecessary medical interventions and sex normalising surgery without free and informed consent.

Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)

36. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The use of the generic 'vulnerability' category in immigration and international protection procedures and the lack of disability specific criteria for the identification and assessment of needs for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities;

(b) The limited access by refugee persons with disabilities who hold temporary protection status to emergency services, civil protection, assistive devices, accessible housing, disability and other benefits, including the parking card;

⁷ See https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2021/12/CRPD-Statement-25_11_2021-End-violence-against-Women-1.pdf.

⁸ Views adopted by the Committee under article 5 of the Optional Protocol, concerning communication No. 78/2020 Livia Černáková v. Slovakia

(c) The use of detention centres in immigration procedures for asylum seekers and refugees, including asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities.

37. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Establish a disability specific criteria and associated protocols for the identification and assessment of needs for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities;**

(b) **Ensure that persons with disabilities who hold temporary protection status have access to supports, services and social protection, including access to disability and parking cards to facilitate access to benefits and discounts under specific regulation;**

(c) **Establish alternatives to immigration detention for asylum seekers and refugees, including asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities through measures contained in Act No. 404/2011 Coll., as well through accessible community-based accommodation, support within families, individualised case management and open reception center models.**

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

38. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The prevalence of institutionalization and the insufficient support for living in the community, the protracted deinstitutionalisation process and risks of reinstitutionalisation, including proposals to retain small group homes and proposals to overturn limits on maximum capacity of residential care homes;

(b) Community-based personal assistance has been limited on the basis of assessments and shows profound regional disparities, the decision to phase out funding for outpatient social services, and the insufficient action to develop other forms of community-based support services to facilitate independent living in particular in the most deprived regions and among persons with disabilities on lower income;

(c) The limited availability and affordability of accessible housing outside the social housing schemes, particularly for persons with intensive support needs and persons whose income is above the threshold for social housing.

39. **Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies,⁹ and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities,¹⁰ the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:**

(a) **Expedite the deinstitutionalisation process for persons with disabilities in institutions, including in smaller group homes; prevent measures that support reinstitutionalisation and transinstitutionalisation, including not accepting proposals to retain small group homes and to overturn limits on maximum capacity of residential care homes; and significantly increase the range of supports and services for persons with disabilities to live in the community;**

(b) **Adopt a strategy for the provision of community-based personal assistance and other support services across all regions and municipalities, including in Roma communities to facilitate independent living in the community, ensuring access for persons with disabilities on low incomes, reallocating funds for and strengthening outpatient social services;**

(c) **Adopt a national accessible housing plan to facilitate access to housing for persons with disabilities in the community, including for persons with intensive support needs and persons with disabilities whose income is above the threshold for social housing.**

⁹ CRPD/C/5.

¹⁰ A/HRC/52/32.

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)

40. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of accessible communication and limited availability of Slovak Sign Language and Roma Sign language, marginalizing deaf and hard of hearing Roma people, in particular children from life in the community, communication with family members and education, health, transportation, leisure and sports, particularly in Eastern regions of Prešov and Košice;

(b) The lack of resources of the national enforcement body to monitor compliance and resolve complaints related to the Web Accessibility Directive and the European Accessibility Act to comply with European Standard EN 301 549;

(c) Shortcomings in applying the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), ensuring that all emergency public information, live broadcasts, and political debates are fully accessible;

(d) The lack of measures to comply with the European Union AI Act mandating fundamental rights impact assessments and accessibility requirements for all risk levels to prevent algorithmic discrimination.

41. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Allocate human, technical and financial resources for early communication support, including through Slovak Sign Language courses for families, visual communication aids, and on-site support in communities. The State Party should support research, documentation, and standardization of naturally occurring communication systems used by Roma persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Allocate sufficient financial, technical, and human resources to the national enforcement body to effectively monitor compliance and resolve complaints related to the Web Accessibility Directive and the European Accessibility Act, ensuring implementation of European Standard EN 301 549 and establish ongoing training and capacity-building for enforcement staff to enable effective oversight, guidance, and enforcement actions in line with European accessibility standards;**

(c) **Ensure full implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive by requiring that all emergency public information, live broadcasts, and political debates are provided in accessible formats, including sign language interpretation, captioning, and audio description, for persons with disabilities;**

(d) **Ensure active involvement and close consultation in relation to the discussion and adoption of the draft act on state administration in the field of artificial intelligence and European data regulation, and mandate that all AI systems undergo fundamental rights impact assessments and comply with accessibility standards for all risk levels, ensuring proactive prevention of algorithmic discrimination in line with the EU AI Act. Introduce accessible and continuous monitoring, transparent documentation, and regular staff training to support these measures.**

Respect for privacy (art. 22)

42. The Committee observes with concern the persistence of practices of control over the personal relationships, correspondence, and sensitive medical or personal information of persons with disabilities under guardianship.

43. **The Committee recommends that the State Party implement the human rights model of disability in its systems, prioritizing supported decision-making in all sectors to accord with Article 12 of the Convention, and adopt legislative and policy frameworks for the protection of the right to privacy of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including complaint and accountability mechanisms in case of arbitrary and/or unlawful interference with the right to privacy.**

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

44. The Committee observes with concern that Section 12 of the Family Act No. 36/2005 Coll. automatically deprives persons with restricted legal capacity of their right to enter into marriage or conditions it upon judicial consent.

45. **The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

(a) **Amend the family Act No.36/2005 and repeal Section 12 to ensure that the act is compatible with Articles 12 and 23 of the Convention, allowing persons with disabilities to exercise their right to marry and establish a family on equal basis with other persons, and provide accessible information and supported decision-making in the scope of marriage and family relations, including for persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities;**

(b) **Adopt measures to ensure the availability of community-based support for the realization of family life, including information in accessible means to exercise parental rights, child rearing, care for children with disabilities that is compatible with the Convention, including the application of the best interest of children with disabilities and the expression of their views in all aspects concerning them.**

Education (art. 24)

46. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The persistence of structural discrimination in education given the number of students with disabilities who continue to be placed in special schools and special classes, and the expansion in the number of special primary schools;

(b) The lack of structural reforms, including legislation and policy frameworks, to address discrimination in education against Roma children on the basis of actual or perceived impairment and disability assessments based on the medical approach;

(c) The lack of information in school curriculum about deaf and hard of hearing Roma, the culture and language of the deaf community or deaf and hard of hearing role models;

(d) The findings of the Ministry of Education indicating the lack of physical accessibility and inclusive environments for persons with disabilities in education settings;

(e) Reports of systematic refusal of enrolment of children with disabilities by catchment schools;

(f) The lack of support for students with disabilities, including affecting deafblind children as well as the absence of budget allocation to encourage their participation in academic mobility programs in higher education.

47. **Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and targets 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State Party ensure disaggregated data collection concerning access to education by persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Guarantee inclusive quality education for all children at all levels and transform the segregated special education system by identifying and eliminating systemic barriers, amending the Education Act to establish an enforceable right to inclusive quality education, and adopting a legally binding, time-bound, and adequately funded plan for transition to inclusive educational settings with practical support measures, reasonable accommodation and effective remedies for denial of inclusive education;**

(b) **Ensure that legislative and policy frameworks ensure the right of Roma children with disabilities to quality inclusive education with individualized supports and reasonable accommodation required, eliminate the exception for segregated**

education in legislation on education, including the educational assessment and combat stereotypes and bias on the basis of disability and ethnicity;

(c) **Mainstream education about the culture, language, and history of the deaf community—including Deaf and Hard of Hearing Roma role models—into the national school curriculum at all levels;**

(d) **Mandate that all schools undergo accessibility audits and implement time-bound plans to ensure full physical accessibility and inclusive environments for students with disabilities, using national standards and involving organizations for persons with disabilities in the process;**

(e) **Include a non-rejection clause for students on grounds of disability, including by catchment schools on the grounds of infrastructure or staff shortages and require identification and provision of reasonable accommodation and appropriate support measures without exception;**

(f) **Guarantee that students with disabilities, including those participating in mobility programs (such as Erasmus+) receive the same services, adaptations and supports as local students in the host country, ensuring that pre-financing for costs associated with disability is not eliminated.**

Health (art. 25)

48. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About constitutional amendments (Constitutional Act No. 460/1992 Coll. Constitution of the Slovak Republic as amended, Art. 41/7) providing for schools to require parental approval for pupils to access comprehensive sexuality education in schools;

(b) About the lack of public policies and plans concerning sexual, reproductive, and menstrual health rights of women and girls with disabilities and the lack of accessible gynecological services, including clinics and equipment;

(c) About the lack of coverage of contraceptive methods by the public health insurance, even when these have been prescribed;

(d) About barriers for Roma children with disabilities to access hearing aids, specialized healthcare professionals, travel costs and maintenance services of hearing aids due to language barriers, including when children are Hungarian speakers, unaffordable travel costs to reach out healthcare and additional cost of hearing aid maintenance;

(e) That persons with intensive support needs face heightened costs for odontology services and compulsory reliance on private clinics given refusal by public contracted dentists to provide them with dentistry services.

49. **Considering the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Ensure that education includes mandatory and age-appropriate education programmes in school curricula on sexual and reproductive health and rights for all children, including children with disabilities, in accessible formats including Easy Read, Braille and sign language;**

(b) **Develop and implement comprehensive public policies and action plans to guarantee accessible sexual, reproductive, and menstrual health information and services for women and girls with disabilities, including the provision of accessible gynaecological clinics, equipment, and information in alternative or augmentative formats;**

(c) **Ensure provision of contraceptive methods for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others and combat attitudinal barriers in family, society, including health care professionals, concerning the right of persons with disabilities, including adolescent and young persons to access contraception;**

(d) Introduce accessible procedures, communication and interpretation including in Slovakian Sign Language and Roma Sign Language for scheduling appointments, interacting with medical specialists, reading prescriptions and ensure that Roma persons with disabilities have access to financial support for acquiring and maintaining assistive devices, including hearing aids;

(e) Encourage the creation of a unified clinical standard for providing dental services to persons with high support needs, investigate unjustified refusals of treatment on the basis of disability, and ensure financial support for disability-related dental costs.

Habilitation and rehabilitation (art. 26)

50. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That medical and social habilitation services drop off sharply for persons with disabilities upon reaching the age of majority or upon completing compulsory schooling, disregarding lifelong chronic support requirements;

(b) About the regional disparities and long waiting times in access habilitation and rehabilitation services particularly affecting children with disabilities;

(c) That children with intensive support needs, including children with Spina Bifida and hydrocephalus, experience lack of information about and availability and/or delay in early intervention, including referrals to required support in areas such as education.

51. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Develop and implement individualized, multidisciplinary habilitation and rehabilitation plans, ensuring timely, affordable, and lifelong access to services and continuity between childhood and adulthood;

(b) Ensure adequate funding and regional availability of habilitation and rehabilitation services, with regular evaluation of service quality and outcomes, including strengthen community-based support, including alternatives for psychosocial wellbeing outside mental health schemes across all regions, including autonomous regions;

(c) Establish a coordinated early intervention system that ensures timely, accessible information, prompt multidisciplinary referrals, and individualized support for children with intensive support needs, including those with Spina Bifida and hydrocephalus.

Work and employment (art. 27)

52. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) That legislation (Act on Employment Services, Section 55, para. 3) retains segregated employment in the form of sheltered workshops and workplaces, which limits support for persons with disabilities in access to employment in the open labour market;

(b) Gaps particularly for women with disabilities, young persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions to access employment and stable income, including through entrepreneurship;

(c) Discrimination against employee persons with disabilities who acquire impairment and are denied reasonable accommodation;

(d) That public subsidy schemes (such as personal job assistants) continue to be directed into sheltered workshops.

53. **Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

(a) Repeal Section 55, para. 3 of the Act on Employment Services with the aim to move away from segregated employment, and adopt a comprehensive strategy

to ensure the transition to and the provision of individualized support for persons with disabilities in the open labour market, and provide financial resources for the creation and retention of jobs;

(b) Within the framework of the forthcoming Employment Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2035, ensure support for development of job opportunities for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and young persons with disabilities in all areas of economy, foster development of labour skills including the use of information and communication technologies;

(c) Ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities in relation to employment in both public and private employment, and complaint mechanisms and redress for persons with disabilities whose reasonable accommodation have been denied and continue to strengthen general measures to improve accessibility and inclusion at the workplace, including those in the national project "Removing Barriers in the Labor Market – Removing Workplace Barriers for Employers";

(d) Move away from segregated employment and redirect public funding, including subsidies for employment opportunities, including self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting business, in line with article 27 (f) of the Convention.

Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)

54. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The impact of austerity and fiscal consolidation have drastically increased the economic vulnerability of persons with disabilities and information indicating that for individuals assessed with a 70% or greater loss of working capacity, disability pensions consistently remain below the national official risk-of-poverty threshold;

(b) The prevalence of the medical model in social protection, emphasizing care and preventing development of appropriate support for persons with disabilities;

(c) That legislative and policy frameworks preserve rules making incompatible disability benefits and paid work.

55. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities:

(a) Set disability pensions and social benefits above the national risk-of-poverty threshold with regular cost-of-living adjustments, protect them from austerity-driven cuts, and ensure simplified procedures and timely access to essential assistive devices, medical supplies, transport, and personal assistance for persons with disabilities;

(b) Revise the current social protection services to shift from a model of care to one that aligns with the human rights model of disability including through supported decision-making, formal, regular and paid support persons, including outside family members and households, and conduct awareness raising about the autonomy, dignity and rights of persons with disabilities throughout lifecycle, including for older persons with disabilities;

(c) Eliminate benefits' caps limiting the level of salary income and access to social protection entitlements for the coverage of disability-related costs.

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

56. The Committee remains concerned that:

(a) The 2026 reform to the Election Act No. 180/2014, Section 6 (c) retains the prohibition to stand for elections for public office on persons whose legal capacity has been restricted or limited by court order;

(b) Elections continue to be held in physical environments that are inaccessible to persons with reduced mobility;

(c) Persons with visual disability cannot cast their vote independently and in secret due to the lack of accessible electronic voting mechanisms.

57. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Remove legal barriers to candidacy for public office for persons with disabilities, including amending the Election Act No. 180/2014 and subsequent legislation, to ensure that section 6 (c) is repealed so that the act is in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention and ensures the exercise of voting rights and standing for elections to persons with disabilities who remain deprived of legal capacity;**

(b) **Ensure that polling places are accessible to persons with reduced mobility, Ensuring the integrity and secrecy of the ballot to persons requiring reasonable accommodation while exercising their right to vote;**

(c) **Create a plan to acquire accessible electronic voting mechanisms for persons with visual impairments to cast their vote independently.**

Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (art. 30)

58. The Committee is concerned about persistent physical and information barriers at cultural institutions, sports facilities, tourist attractions, and historical sites.

59. **The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a plan for accessible infrastructure at cultural institutions, sports facilities, tourist attractions and historical sites, and actively promote and support inclusive cultural, sport, and leisure activities to ensure persons with disabilities have access to community life.**

C. Specific obligations (arts. 31–33)**Statistics and data collection (art. 31)**

60. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of comprehensive systems for data collection, including disaggregated data about the situation of persons with disabilities, and limited publication and use of such data to inform public policy;

(b) Following the abolition of the Analytical Centre of the Ministry of Justice, a lack of systematic collection and analysis of data on judicial proceedings concerning discrimination against persons with disabilities or the restriction of legal capacity and guardianship.

61. **The Committee reiterates its previous concluding observations, para. 84, and recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

(a) **Use the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions in data collection and statistics, and disaggregate data by age, sex, gender, ethnicity, including belonging to the Roma community, urban or rural location and migration status;**

(b) **Ensure systematic collection and analysis of data on discrimination of persons with disabilities, in particular intersectional discrimination, legal capacity and guardianship.**

International cooperation (art. 32)

62. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of measures in the State party's international cooperation programmes to systematically implement the rights of persons with disabilities, including the absence of disability inclusion in the Medium-Term Development Cooperation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2025-2030;

(b) The limited information about the State Party's role as Member State of the European Union to ensure mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities in the regional organization's external action, including in the European Union's Global Gateway and the EU 360-degree approach;

(c) Insufficient information about mechanisms for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development of international cooperation programs and strategies;

(d) The limited impact of the measures taken towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Goals on the rights of persons with disabilities.

63. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) Ensure that international cooperation strategies, programmes, and assistance, including at the European Union level, comprehensively include the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities; introduce indicators on progress of the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in the State party's international cooperation, and seek technical assistance for including the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities in the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030;

(b) Take a proactive role to ensure that investments, development cooperation and external action programmes of the European Union, including under the EU's Global Gateway Strategy and the EU 360-degree approach, the next EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy and the forthcoming EU Gender Equality Action Plan IV (post 2027 GAP IV), promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including through accessibility and funding requirements, participation, accountability mechanisms and disability-disaggregated data collection and statistics; Take initiatives with the goal of rendering investments and development projects inclusive, not creating any new barriers;

(c) Adopt legally entrenched mechanisms for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design and development of international cooperation strategies and programs, including on the implementation of the European Consensus on Development;

(d) Strengthen national capacities and organizational, technical, financial and human resources for the implementation of the national targets in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

64. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the dissolution of the department for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2020, and the limited information about the functions and efforts of the Social and Family Policy Section to ensure the implementation of the Convention across all levels and branches of government;

(b) That the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities lacks the human, technical and financial resources to comprehensively monitor the rights and situation of persons with disabilities;

(c) About the lack of systematic participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, due to the

absence of a legal framework, formal mechanisms, financial, technical and personal capacity and the requisite resources.

65. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Designate one or more focal points, endowed with sufficient financial, personal and technical resources and placed at a high echelon in the administration, to engage with authorities at all levels of government, including at the ministerial level, about the implementation of the Convention. Coordinate the implementation of the Convention across all branches and levels of the state and of government, including the National Council of the Slovak Republic (Parliament), the judiciary, regions and municipalities;**

(b) **Ensure, by legislation, that the office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities fulfils the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights (Paris Principles). Particularly, ensure that appointments of the Commissioner are based on merit, that the Commissioner acts with full independence, and that it is endowed with the organizational, technical, financial and human resources to comprehensively monitor the implementation of the Convention;**

(c) **Establish formal mechanisms, capacity building programs, accessible information and methodologies, and appropriate funding allowing persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.**

IV. Follow-up

Dissemination of information

66. **The Committee emphasizes the importance of all the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. With regard to urgent measures that must be taken, the Committee would like to draw the State Party's attention to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19, 25 and 39, on accessibility, equal recognition before the law and living independently and being included in the community.**

67. **The Committee requests the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State Party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Government and the National Council of the Slovak Republic, officials in relevant ministries, local authorities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies.**

68. **The Committee requests the State Party to disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, and to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in national and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats, and to make them available on the government website on human rights.**

69. **The Committee strongly encourages the State Party to involve civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its periodic reports.**

Next periodic report

70. **The combined fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth periodic reports are in principle due on 26 June 2040, under the simplified reporting procedure. The Committee will establish and communicate the exact due date of the combined periodic reports of the State Party in line with a future clear and regularized schedule for**

reporting by States Parties¹¹ and following the adoption of a list of issues and questions prior to reporting for the State Party. The combined periodic reports should cover the entire period up to the time of its submission.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 79/165, para. 6.