



***“Improving the access to social services for people
with Disabilities in Rwanda”
2014-2016***

COMPILATION ON RWANDAN DISABILITY LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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Table of content

Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and optional protocol.....	4
Optional protocol to the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.....	37
Law n° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 relating to protection of disabled persons in general.....	44
Ministerial order n° 01/2009 of 19/6/2009 determining the modalities of facilitating persons with disabilities to practice and follow cultural, entertainment and sports activities	51
Ministerial Order N° 20/18 Of 27/7/2009 Determining The Modalities Of Classifying Persons With Disabilities Into Basic Categories Based On The Degree Of Disability	54
Ministerial order n°02/cab.m/09 of 27/7/2009 determining the modalities of facilitating persons with disabilities on necessary travels within the country.....	58
Ministerial order n° 20/18 of 27/7/2009 determining the modalities of classifying persons with disabilities into basic categories based on the degree of disability.....	61
Ministerial Order N°20/19 Of 27/7/2009 Determining The Modalities Of Facilitating Persons With Disabilities Access Medical Care	64
Ministerial Order N° 03/19.19 Of 27/7/2009 Determining The Modalities Of Facilitating Persons With Disabilities To Easily Access Employment	67
Ministerial Order N° 01/09/MININFOR of 10/08/2009 Determining the Modalities of Facilitating Persons with Disabilities in Matters Relating to Communication.	70

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of the present Convention:

“Communication” includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology;

“Language” includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of non spoken languages;

“Discrimination on the basis of disability” means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation;

“Reasonable accommodation” means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

“**Universal design**” means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. “Universal design” shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed.

Article 3

General principles

The principles of the present Convention shall be:

- (a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons;
- (b) Non-discrimination;
- (c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (d) Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- (e) Equality of opportunity;
- (f) Accessibility;
- (g) Equality between men and women;
- (h) Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

Article 4

General obligations

1. States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. To this end, States Parties undertake:

- (a) To adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention;

- (b) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities;
- (c) To take into account the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programmes;
- (d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice that is inconsistent with the present Convention and to ensure that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with the present Convention;
- (e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability by any person, organization or private enterprise;
- (f) To undertake or promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, which should require the minimum possible adaptation and the least cost to meet the specific needs of a person with disabilities, to promote their availability and use, and to promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines;
- (g) To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost;
- (h) To provide accessible information to persons with disabilities about mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, including new technologies, as well as other forms of assistance, support services and facilities;
- (i) To promote the training of professionals and staff working with persons with disabilities in the rights recognized in the present Convention so as to better provide the assistance and services guaranteed by those rights.

2. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, each State Party undertakes to take measures to the maximum of its available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the present Convention that are immediately applicable according to international law.
3. 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, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.
4. Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and which may be contained in the law of a State Party or international law in force for that State. There shall be no restriction upon or derogation from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized or existing in any State Party to the present Convention pursuant to law, conventions, regulation or custom on the pretext that the present Convention does not recognize such rights or freedoms or that it recognizes them to a lesser extent.
5. The provisions of the present Convention shall extend to all parts of federal States without any limitations or exceptions.

Article 5

Equality and non-discrimination

1. States Parties recognize that all persons are equal before and under the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law.
2. States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.
3. In order to promote equality and eliminate discrimination, States Parties shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided.

4. Specific measures which are necessary to accelerate or achieve de facto equality of persons with disabilities shall not be considered discrimination under the terms of the present Convention.

Article 6

Women with disabilities

1. States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.

Article 7

Children with disabilities

1. States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children
2. In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.

Article 8

Awareness-raising

1. States Parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures:
 - (a) To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;
 - (b) To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life;
 - (c) To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.

2. Measures to this end include:
 - (a) Initiating and maintaining effective public awareness campaigns designed:
 - (i) To nurture receptiveness to the rights of persons with disabilities;
 - (ii) To promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities;
 - (iii) To promote recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities, and of their contributions to the workplace and the labour market;

 - (b) Fostering at all levels of the education system, including in all children from an early age, an attitude of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities;

 - (c) Encouraging all organs of the media to portray persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the purpose of the present Convention;

 - (d) Promoting awareness-training programmes regarding persons with disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities.

Article 9

Accessibility

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:
 - (a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
 - (b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.
2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:
 - (a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
 - (b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
 - (c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
 - (d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;
 - (e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;
 - (f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;

- (g) To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;
- (h) To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

Article 10

Right to life

States Parties reaffirm that every human being has the inherent right to life and shall take all necessary measures to ensure its effective enjoyment by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Article 11

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

Article 12

Equal recognition before the law

1. States Parties reaffirm that persons with disabilities have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law.\
2. States Parties shall recognize that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.
3. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity.

4. States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse in accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will and preferences of the person, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to the person's circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect the person's rights and interests.
5. Subject to the provisions of this article, States Parties shall take all appropriate and effective measures to ensure the equal right of persons with disabilities to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, and shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not arbitrarily deprived of their property.

Article 13

Access to justice

1. States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages.
2. In order to help to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, States Parties shall promote appropriate training for those working in the field of administration of justice, including police and prison staff.

Article 14

Liberty and security of person

1. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others:
 - (a) Enjoy the right to liberty and security of person;
 - (b) Are not deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and that any deprivation of liberty is in conformity with the law, and that the existence of a disability shall in no case justify a deprivation of liberty.
2. States Parties shall ensure that if persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty through any process, they are, on an equal basis with others, entitled to guarantees in accordance with international human rights law and shall be treated in compliance with the objectives and principles of the present Convention, including by provision of reasonable accommodation.

Article 15

Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

1. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his or her free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.
2. States Parties shall take all effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, from being subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 16

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.

2. States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.
3. In order to prevent the occurrence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, States Parties shall ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities.
4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including through the provision of protection services. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment that fosters the health, welfare, self-respect, dignity and autonomy of the person and takes into account gender- and age-specific needs.
5. States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women- and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted.

Article 17

Protecting the integrity of the person

Every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others.

Article 18

Liberty of movement and nationality

- 1 States Parties shall recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring that persons with disabilities:
- (a) Have the right to acquire and change a nationality and are not deprived of their nationality arbitrarily or on the basis of disability;
 - (b) Are not deprived, on the basis of disability, of their ability to obtain, possess and utilize documentation of their nationality or other documentation of identification, or to utilize relevant processes such as immigration proceedings, that may be needed to facilitate exercise of the right to liberty of movement;
 - (c) Are free to leave any country, including their own;
 - (d) \ Are not deprived, arbitrarily or on the basis of disability, of the right to enter their own country.
2. Children with disabilities shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by their parents.

Article 19

Living independently and being included in the community

States Parties to the present Convention recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
- (b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in

the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;

- (c) Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.

Article 20

Personal mobility

States Parties shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, including by:

- (a) Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the manner and at the time of their choice, and at affordable cost;
- (b) Facilitating access by persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including by making them available at affordable cost;
- (c) Providing training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to specialist staff working with persons with disabilities;
- (d) Encouraging entities that produce mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to take into account all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities.

Article 21

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, including by:

- (a) Providing information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost;

- (b) Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions;
- (c) Urging private entities that provide services to the general public, including through the Internet, to provide information and services in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities;
- (d) Encouraging the mass media, including providers of information through the Internet, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities;
- (e) Recognizing and promoting the use of sign languages.

Article 22

Respect for privacy

1. No person with disabilities, regardless of place of residence or living arrangements, shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence or other types of communication or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. Persons with disabilities have the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.
2. States Parties shall protect the privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Article 23

Respect for home and the family

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, so as to ensure that:
 - (a) The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses is recognized;
 - (b) The rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have

access to age-appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education are recognized, and the means necessary to enable them to exercise these rights are provided;

- (c) Persons with disabilities, including children, retain their fertility on an equal basis with others.
2. States Parties shall ensure the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities, with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship, adoption of children or similar institutions, where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the best interests of the child shall be paramount. States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.
3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. With a view to realizing these rights, and to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.
4. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. In no case shall a child be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents.
5. States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care within the wider family, and failing that, within the community in a family setting.

Article 24

Education

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning directed to:

- (a) The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity;
 - (b) The development by persons with disabilities of their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential;
 - (c) Enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in a free society.
2. In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that:
- (a) Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from free and compulsory primary education, or from secondary education, on the basis of disability;
 - (b) Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live;
 - (c) Reasonable accommodation of the individual's requirements is provided;
 - (d) Persons with disabilities receive the support required, within the general education system, to facilitate their effective education;
 - (e) Effective individualized support measures are provided in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion.
3. States Parties shall enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community. To this end, States Parties shall take appropriate measures, including:
- (a) Facilitating the learning of Braille, alternative script, augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication and orientation and mobility skills, and facilitating peer support and mentoring;
 - (b) Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community;

- (c) Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf or deaf blind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.
4. In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.
5. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities.

Article 25

Health

States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation. In particular, States Parties shall:

- (a) Provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes;
- (b) Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons;

- (c) Provide these health services as close as possible to people's own communities, including in rural areas;
- (d) Require health professionals to provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent by, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and needs of persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care;
- (e) Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance where such insurance is permitted by national law, which shall be provided in a fair and reasonable manner;
- (f) Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of disability.

Article 26

Habilitation and rehabilitation

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures, including through peer support, to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life. To that end, States Parties shall organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, in such a way that these services and programmes:
 - (a) Begin at the earliest possible stage, and are based on the multidisciplinary assessment of individual needs and strengths;
 - (b) Support participation and inclusion in the community and all aspects of society, are voluntary, and are available to persons with disabilities as close as possible to their own communities, including in rural areas.
2. States Parties shall promote the development of initial and continuing training for professionals and staff working in habilitation and rehabilitation services.
3. States Parties shall promote the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation.

Article 27

Work and employment

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia:
 - (a) Prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions;
 - (b) Protect the rights of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to just and favourable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances;
 - (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour and trade union rights on an equal basis with others;
 - (d) Enable persons with disabilities to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and vocational and continuing training;
 - (e) Promote employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment;
 - (f) Promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business;
 - (g) Employ persons with disabilities in the public sector;
 - (h) Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures, which may include affirmative action programmes, incentives and other measures;
 - (i) Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace;

- (j) Promote the acquisition by persons with disabilities of work experience in the open labour market;
 - (k) Promote vocational and professional rehabilitation, job retention and return-to-work programmes for persons with disabilities.
2. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery or in servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labour.

Article 28

Adequate standard of living and social protection

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.
2. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures:
 - (a) To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs;
 - (b) To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes;
 - (c) To ensure access by persons with disabilities and their families living in situations of poverty to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses, including adequate training, counselling, financial assistance and respite care;
 - (d) To ensure access by persons with disabilities to public housing programmes;
 - (e) To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to retirement benefits and programmes.

Article 29

Participation in political and public life

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake:

- (a) To ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:
 - (i) Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;
 - (ii) Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;
 - (iii) Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;
- (b) To promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:
 - (i) Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;
 - (ii) Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.

Article 30

Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities:
 - (a) Enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats;
 - (b) Enjoy access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats;
 - (c) Enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, enjoy access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance.
2. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society.
3. States Parties shall take all appropriate steps, in accordance with international law, to ensure that laws protecting intellectual property rights do not constitute an unreasonable or discriminatory barrier to access by persons with disabilities to cultural materials.
4. Persons with disabilities shall be entitled, on an equal basis with others, to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture.
5. With a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:
 - (a) To encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels;
 - (b) To ensure that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities and, to this end, encourage the provision, on an equal basis with others, of appropriate instruction, training and resources;

- (c) To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues;
- (d) To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system;
- (e) To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.

Article 31

Statistics and data collection

1. States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and maintaining this information shall:
 - (a) Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;
 - (b) Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.
2. The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of States Parties' obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.
3. States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others

Article 32

International cooperation

1. States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia:
 - (a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;
 - (b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;
 - (c) Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;
 - (d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies.
2. The provisions of this article are without prejudice to the obligations of each State Party to fulfil its obligations under the present Convention.

Article 33

National implementation and monitoring

1. States Parties, in accordance with their system of organization, shall designate one or more focal points within government for matters relating to the implementation of the present Convention, and shall give due consideration to the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism within government to facilitate related action in different sectors and at different levels.
2. States Parties shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State

Party, a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the present Convention. When designating or establishing such a mechanism, States Parties shall take into account the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights.

3. Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.

Article 34

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

1. There shall be established a Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereafter referred to as “the Committee”), which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.
2. The Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Convention, of twelve experts. After an additional sixty ratifications or accessions to the Convention, the membership of the Committee shall increase by six members, attaining a maximum number of eighteen members.
3. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the present Convention. When nominating their candidates, States Parties are invited to give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4, paragraph 3, of the present Convention.
4. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of experts with disabilities.
5. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties from among their nationals at meetings of the Conference of States Parties. At those meetings, for which two thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

6. The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the present Convention. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit the nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the State Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.
7. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election once. However, the term of six of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these six members shall be chosen by lot by the chairperson of the meeting referred to in paragraph 5 of this article.
8. The election of the six additional members of the Committee shall be held on the occasion of regular elections, in accordance with the relevant provisions of this article.
9. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause she or he can no longer perform her or his duties, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert possessing the qualifications and meeting the requirements set out in the relevant provisions of this article, to serve for the remainder of the term.
10. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.
11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention, and shall convene its initial meeting.
12. With the approval of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.
13. The members of the Committee shall be entitled to the facilities, privileges and immunities of experts on mission for the United Nations as laid down in the relevant sections of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

Article 35

Reports by States Parties

1. Each State Party shall submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention and on the progress made in that regard, within two years after the entry into force of the present Convention for the State Party concerned.
2. Thereafter, States Parties shall submit subsequent reports at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.
3. The Committee shall decide any guidelines applicable to the content of the reports.
4. A State Party which has submitted a comprehensive initial report to the Committee need not, in its subsequent reports, repeat information previously provided. When preparing reports to the Committee, States Parties are invited to consider doing so in an open and transparent process and to give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4, paragraph 3, of the present Convention.
5. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present Convention.

Article 36

Consideration of reports

1. Each report shall be considered by the Committee, which shall make such suggestions and general recommendations on the report as it may consider appropriate and shall forward these to the State Party concerned. The State Party may respond with any information it chooses to the Committee. The Committee may request further information from States Parties relevant to the implementation of the present Convention.
2. If a State Party is significantly overdue in the submission of a report, the Committee may notify the State Party concerned of the need to examine the implementation of the present Convention in that State Party, on the basis of reliable information available to the Committee, if the relevant report is not submitted within three months following the notification. The Committee shall invite the State Party concerned to participate in such examination. Should the State Party respond by submitting the

- relevant report, the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article will apply.
3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall make available the reports to all States Parties.
 4. States Parties shall make their reports widely available to the public in their own countries and facilitate access to the suggestions and general recommendations relating to these reports.
 5. The Committee shall transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, and other competent bodies, reports from States Parties in order to address a request or indication of a need for technical advice or assistance contained therein, along with the Committee's observations and recommendations, if any, on these requests or indications.

Article 37

Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee

1. Each State Party shall cooperate with the Committee and assist its members in the fulfilment of their mandate.
2. In its relationship with States Parties, the Committee shall give due consideration to ways and means of enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the present Convention, including through international cooperation.

Article 38

Relationship of the Committee with other bodies

In order to foster the effective implementation of the present Convention and to encourage international cooperation in the field covered by the present Convention:

- (a) The specialized agencies and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee may invite

specialized agencies and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

- (b) The Committee, as it discharges its mandate, shall consult, as appropriate, other relevant bodies instituted by international human rights treaties, with a view to ensuring the consistency of their respective reporting guidelines, suggestions and general recommendations, and avoiding duplication and overlap in the performance of their functions.

Article 39

Report of the Committee

The Committee shall report every two years to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on its activities, and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

Article 40

Conference of States Parties

1. The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention.
2. No later than six months after the entry into force of the present Convention, the Conference of States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General biennially or upon the decision of the Conference of States Parties.

Article 41

Depositary

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Convention.

Article 42

Signature

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States and by regional integration organizations at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 30 March 2007.

Article 43

Consent to be bound

The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States and to formal confirmation by signatory regional integration organizations. It shall be open for accession by any State or regional integration organization which has not signed the Convention.

Article 44

Regional integration organizations

1. "*Regional integration organization*" shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by the present Convention. Such organizations shall declare, in their instruments of formal confirmation or accession, the extent of their competence with respect to matters governed by the present Convention. Subsequently, they shall inform the depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.
2. References to "*States Parties*" in the present Convention shall apply to such organizations within the limits of their competence.
3. For the purposes of article 45, paragraph 1, and article 47, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the present Convention, any instrument deposited by a regional integration organization shall not be counted.
4. Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the Conference of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the present Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Article 45

Entry into force

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confirming or acceding to the present Convention after the deposit of the twentieth such instrument, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own such instrument.

Article 46

Reservations

1. Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.
2. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

Article 47

Amendments

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment to the present Convention and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States Parties, with a request to be notified whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States Parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly of the United Nations for approval and thereafter to all States Parties for acceptance.
2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment.

Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State Party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States Parties which have accepted it.

3. If so decided by the Conference of States Parties by consensus, an amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article which relates exclusively to articles 34, 38, 39 and 40 shall enter into force for all States Parties on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment.

Article 48

Denunciation

A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

Article 49

Accessible format

The text of the present Convention shall be made available in accessible formats.

Article 50

Authentic texts

The Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the present Convention shall be equally authentic.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The States Parties to the present Protocol have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. A State Party to the present Protocol ("State Party") recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ("the Committee") to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals or groups of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by that State Party of the provisions of the Convention.
2. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State Party to the Convention that is not a party to the present Protocol.

Article 2

The Committee shall consider a communication inadmissible when:

- (a) The communication is anonymous;
- (b) The communication constitutes an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or is incompatible with the provisions of the Convention;
- (c) The same matter has already been examined by the Committee or has been or is being examined under another procedure of international investigation or settlement;
- (d) All available domestic remedies have not been exhausted. This shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged or unlikely to bring effective relief;
- (e) It is manifestly ill-founded or not sufficiently substantiated; or when
- (f) The facts that are the subject of the communication occurred prior to the entry into force of the present Protocol for the State Party concerned unless those facts continued after that date.

Article 3

Subject to the provisions of article 2 of the present Protocol, the Committee shall bring any communications submitted to it confidentially to the attention of the State Party. Within six months, the receiving State shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by that State.

1. At any time after the receipt of a communication and before a determination on the merits has been reached, the Committee may transmit to the State Party concerned for its urgent consideration a request that the State Party take such interim measures as may be necessary to avoid possible irreparable damage to the victim or victims of the alleged violation.
2. Where the Committee exercises its discretion under paragraph 1 of this article, this does not imply a determination on admissibility or on the merits of the communication.

Article 4

The Committee shall hold closed meetings when examining communications under the present Protocol. After examining a communication, the Committee shall forward its suggestions and recommendations, if any, to the State Party concerned and to the petitioner.

Article 5

1. If the Committee receives reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations by a State Party of rights set forth in the Convention, the Committee shall invite that State Party to cooperate in the examination of the information and to this end submit observations with regard to the information concerned.
2. Taking into account any observations that may have been submitted by the State Party concerned as well as any other reliable information available to it, the Committee may designate one or more of its members to conduct an inquiry and to report urgently to the Committee. Where warranted and with the consent of the State Party, the inquiry may include a visit to its territory.

3. After examining the findings of such an inquiry, the Committee shall transmit these findings to the State Party concerned together with any comments and recommendations.
4. The State Party concerned shall, within six months of receiving the findings, comments and recommendations transmitted by the Committee, submit its observations to the Committee.
5. Such an inquiry shall be conducted confidentially and the cooperation of the State Party shall be sought at all stages of the proceedings.

Article 6

1. The Committee may invite the State Party concerned to include in its report under article 35 of the Convention details of any measures taken in response to an inquiry conducted under article 6 of the present Protocol.
2. The Committee may, if necessary, after the end of the period of six months referred to in article 6, paragraph 4, invite the State Party concerned to inform it of the measures taken in response to such an inquiry.

Article 8

Each State Party may, at the time of signature or ratification of the present Protocol or accession thereto, declare that it does not recognize the competence of the Committee provided for in articles 6 and 7.

Article 9

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Protocol

Article 10

The present Protocol shall be open for signature by signatory States and regional integration organizations of the Convention at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 30 March 2007.

Article 11

The present Protocol shall be subject to ratification by signatory States of the present Protocol which have ratified or acceded to the Convention. It shall be subject to formal confirmation by signatory regional integration organizations of the present Protocol which have formally confirmed or acceded to the Convention. It shall be open for accession by any State or regional integration organization which has ratified, formally confirmed or acceded to the Convention and which has not signed the Protocol.

Article 12

1. "Regional integration organization" shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by the Convention and the present Protocol. Such organizations shall declare, in their instruments of formal confirmation or accession, the extent of their competence with respect to matters governed by the Convention and the present Protocol. Subsequently, they shall inform the depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.
2. References to "States Parties" in the present Protocol shall apply to such organizations within the limits of their competence.
3. For the purposes of article 13, paragraph 1, and article 15, paragraph 2, of the present Protocol, any instrument deposited by a regional integration organization shall not be counted.
4. Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the meeting of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the present Protocol. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Article 13

1. Subject to the entry into force of the Convention, the present Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confirming or acceding to the present Protocol after the deposit of the tenth such instrument, the Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own such instrument.

Article 14

1. Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Protocol shall not be permitted.
2. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

Article 15

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment to the present Protocol and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States Parties, with a request to be notified whether they favour a meeting of States Parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a meeting, the Secretary-General shall convene the meeting under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States Parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly of the United Nations for approval and thereafter to all States Parties for acceptance.
2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State Party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States Parties which have accepted it.

Article 16

A State Party may denounce the present Protocol by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary- General.

Article 17

The text of the present Protocol shall be made available in accessible formats.

Article 18

The Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the present Protocol shall be equally authentic.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Protocol.

**LAW N° 01/2007 OF 20/01/2007
RELATING TO PROTECTION OF
DISABLED PERSONS IN GENERAL**

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article One:

This law protects disabled persons in general. Without prejudice to provisions of this law, there may be instituted particular laws protecting persons who are disabled due to various circumstances.

Article 2:

In this law, disability shall mean the condition of a person's impairment of health ability he or she should have been in possession, and consequently leading to deficiency compared to others. In this law, a disabled person is any individual who was born without congenital abilities like those of others or one who was deprived of such abilities due to disease, accident, conflict or any other reasons which may cause disability. An order of the Minister in charge of Health shall determine modalities of how disabled persons are put in basic categories according to their disabilities in order to help various organs to guarantee them special rights they require.

Article 3:

Every disabled person shall be entitled to equal rights with others persons before the law. He or she shall be respected and be entitled to human dignity.

Article 4:

Centres or associations which cater for disabled persons are obliged to fulfil the conditions to enable the disabled persons to have a descent living in matters relating to security and health. The centres and associations are required to have sufficient capacity and equipment in order to be able to integrate disabled persons into the social life and to have a role in the development process. The State has the obligation to monitor and support the federations, associations and centres that cater for disabled persons. An Order of the Minister in charge of social affairs shall institute instructions that govern federations, associations and centres that cater for disabled persons.

Article 5:

A disabled person has the right to live in the family in the same conditions as others. An orphan disabled person and who is unable to live on his or her own shall have a tutor or an adopter or a centre or an association that caters for him or her. An order of the Minister in charge of Social affairs shall determine the modalities of how the State shall assist a disabled person who does not have any person to cater for him or her.

Article 6:

To be a tutor of a related or a non related disabled person; or for a centre to cater for disabled persons, shall be done in the interest of the disabled person and in the general national interest and it shall not be done on any other interests of the tutor. An order of the Minister in charge of Social Affairs shall institute modalities of regular monitoring of actions of tutors and centres which receive disabled persons.

Article 7:

A disabled person is entitled to the right of freedom of expression on any general national issues, on any particular issue he or she is concerned with and shall have a role in the national development of his or her country in accordance with his or her capacity. Where possible, disabled persons shall be consulted and they shall give views on activities and services accorded to them. The Coordinator of the federation of the disabled persons at local levels shall participate in the consultative councils elected at those levels.

Article 8:

A disabled person shall have the right to legal representation like any other person in courts of law as determined by law. The State shall determine the modalities of providing legal aid to the needy disabled persons who are not able to get legal representation. Various organs shall facilitate the disabled persons in acquisition of the required services at any time it is considered necessary.

Article 9:

A disabled person shall be catered for and assisted particularly in times of conflict, accidents and other disasters. An order of the Minister in charge of Social Affairs shall determine how such assistance shall be rendered.

Article 10:

The National Human Rights Commission shall provide special procedures of monitoring how rights of a disabled person are respected.

CHAPTER II: RIGHTS OF A DISABLED PERSON IN MATTERS RELATED TO EDUCATION

Article 11:

A disabled person has the right to appropriate education in respect of the nature of his or her disability. The Government or centres which cater for disabled persons who are not able to study with others, shall provide with them modalities to study in a specialised school and shall have qualified and trained teachers and appropriate equipment. The Minister in charge of Education shall, basing on basic categories of disability determined by the Minister in charge of Health, determine modalities of facilitating the needy disabled persons in ordinary schools and in specialised schools in case of failure to study with others.

Article 12:

A pupil or a student with disabilities that do not enable him or her to sit exams with fellow schoolmates or in the same manner as others is entitled to the right of sitting for exams in a special manner.

Article 13:

The Minister in charge of education shall determine modalities of facilitating the needy disabled persons in pursuing education.

CHAPTER III: RIGHTS OF A DISABLED PERSON IN HEALTH MATTERS

Article 14:

The Government shall facilitate a disabled person in getting medical care and prosthesis and orthosis appliances if required.

Article 15:

The Government has an obligation to provide medical care to a needy disabled person and it shall provide prosthesis and orthosis appliances if required.

Article 16:

Each centre or association that caters for the disabled persons is obliged to have a department responsible for examination of trauma as well as physico-social counselling.

Article 17:

An order of the Minister in charge of Health shall determine the modalities of facilitating the disabled persons in matters related to receiving medical care and getting prosthesis and orthosis appliances.

CHAPTER IV: RIGHTS OF A DISABLED PERSON IN MATTERS RELATED TO WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

Article 18:

No discrimination of any form shall be subjected upon a disabled person in matters related to employment. However, a disabled person shall be given greater access to employment opportunities than any other citizen in case of equal capacities or in case of equal marks in competition.

Article 19:

In case of necessity and only due to interest of employment, a disabled person shall be entitled to a conducive employment environment that does not detract the nature of his or her disability.

Article 20:

An Order of the Minister in Charge of labour in his or her attributions shall determine the modalities of facilitating the disabled persons in matters related to access to employment opportunities.

CHAPTER V: RIGHTS OF A DISABLED PERSON IN MATTERS RELATED TO CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS

Article 21:

Centres that cater for the disabled persons and educational institutions in general, are required to have special grounds meant for culture, entertainment and sports and trained tutors.

Article 22:

Disabled persons are entitled to the right of joining specialised associations related to sports, culture and entertainment.

Article 23:

A disabled person shall be facilitated in matters related to participation in sports, films, drama and other entertainment.

Article 24:

An order of the Minister in charge of Sports shall determine the modalities of facilitating the disabled persons in matters related to participation in activities of culture, entertainment and sports.

CHAPTER VI: RIGHTS OF A DISABLED PERSON IN MATTERS RELATED TO TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION AND ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE

Article 25:

Buildings in which various services meant for residents are conducted are required to be built in a way such that they facilitate the disabled persons to acquire access to such services. An order of the Minister in charge of infrastructure shall determine when and how it shall be conducted.

Article 26:

Public transport and communication services are obliged to facilitate the disabled persons Gestures, Braille writings and other ways that aid the disabled persons in communication, where possible shall, be used in conferences and meetings, news reading and other public debates. An order of the Minister in charge of Communication and Transport shall determine modalities of facilitating disabled persons in matters relating to communication and transport.

CHAPTER VII: PENALTIES

Article 27:

Any person who exercises any form of discrimination or any form of violence against a disabled person, shall be punished with the heaviest penalty among the penalties provided by the Criminal Code and those of the special laws relating to such a crime.

CHAPTER VIII: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 28:

All previous legal provisions contrary to this law are hereby abrogated.

Article 29:

This law comes into force on the day of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

Kigali on 20/01/2007

The President of the Republic

KAGAME Paul

(sé)

**MINISTERIAL ORDER N° 01/2009
OF 19/6/2009 DETERMINING THE
MODALITIES OF FACILITATING
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO
PRACTICE AND FOLLOW CULTURAL,
ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS
ACTIVITIES**

The Minister of Culture and Sports,

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 04 June 2003 as amended to date, especially in Articles 14, 120, 121, 201

Pursuant to Law n° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 relating to protection of disabled persons in general, especially in Article 24;

After consideration and approval by the Cabinet, in its session of 19/06/2009;

HEREBY ORDERS:

Article 1: Purpose of this Order

This Order determines the modalities of facilitating disabled persons to practice and follow cultural, entertainment and sports activities.

Article 2: Materials for disabled persons

Disabled Persons shall be fully facilitated in order to participate, to practice and train in sport and entertainment activities. Both private and public organs in charge of such activities shall reserve spaces for the practice of these activities.. This mainly concerns national associations in charge of cultural, entertainment and sports activities.

Article 3: To be a member of the international sports association

Disabled persons shall be facilitated to become members of international sports associations, and shall be availed assistance to participate in activities relating to these associations, or in games at the international level, which include mainly transport, meals and membership fees.

Article 4: A passing way and special spaces for disabled persons

A passing way and special spaces shall be reserved for disabled persons who choose to follow sports and entertainment activities for their own safety due to their disabilities.

Deaf Persons shall be provided with interpreters during sports and entertainment activities.

Article 5: Issues for incorporation into the budget

The issues specified under Articles 2, 3 and 4 of this Order shall be incorporated into the budget of each Organ.

Article 6: Repealing provision

All prior legal provisions contrary to this Order are hereby repealed.

Article 7: Commencement

This Order shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

**MINISTERIAL ORDER N° 01/cab. M/
09 OF 27/07/2009 DETERMINING
THE MODALITIES OF CONSTRUCTING
BUILDINGS PROVIDING VARIOUS
PUBLIC SERVICES TO EASE THE ACCESS
OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Minister of Infrastructure,

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 04 June 2003 as amended to date, especially in Articles 14, 120, 121 and 201;

Pursuant to Law n° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 relating to protection of disabled persons in general, especially in Article 25;

After consideration and approval by the Cabinet, in its session of 19/06/2009;

HEREBY ORDERS:

Article One: Purpose of this Order

This Order determines the modalities of constructing buildings providing various public services to ease the access of persons with disabilities.

Article 2: Definitions

The term "*buildings where various services are provided*" shall mean all buildings, whether private or public or parastatal as well as those belonging to various religious denominations and all other buildings used for the provision of various services.

The term "*public services*" shall mean all services rendered to the population for various reasons in their best interest.

The term "*buildings that facilitate access for persons with disabilities*" shall mean buildings constructed in a way that access thereto by persons with disabilities is facilitated or eased.

The term "*building permit*" shall mean a document issued by a competent public Organ authorizing the recipient to start construction.

Article 3: Building facilities for persons with disabilities

All buildings shall be equipped with the necessary facilities to enable persons with disabilities have access to services therein. In particular whether a public or private building meant to provide services to the public, must provide passage ways for persons with disabilities so as to have easy access to services being offered.

Buildings constructed prior to the publication of this Order in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda must conform to the requirements stipulated under paragraph one of this Article.

Article 4: Parking space for vehicles

All buildings offering services must provide special parking space for vehicles of persons with disabilities, whether motorized or non-motorized. These spaces should be near main entrances with facilities to enable the rescue, self assistance, calls for help when necessary of persons with disabilities in an expeditious way

Article 5: Building permit

Without prejudice to the legal provisions relating to urban planning and construction, building permit applicants in respect of buildings specified under Article 3 of this Order must demonstrate the observance of laws in general and of those relating to persons with disabilities in particular.

Article 6: Repealing provision

All prior legal provisions contrary to this Order are hereby repealed.

Article 7: Commencement

This Order shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

**MINISTERIAL ORDER N°02/cab.M/09
OF 27/7/2009 DETERMINING THE
MODALITIES OF FACILITATING
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ON
NECESSARY TRAVELS WITHIN THE
COUNTRY.**

The Minister of Infrastructure,

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 04 June 2003, as amended to date especially in Articles 14, 120, 121 and 201;

Pursuant to Law n° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 relating to protection of disabled persons in general, especially in Article 26;
After consideration and approval by the Cabinet, in its session of 19/06/2009;

HEREBY ORDERS:

Article One: Purpose of this Order

This Order determines the modalities of facilitating persons with disabilities on necessary travels within the Country.

Article 2: Definition

The term "*necessary travel*" shall mean the travel undertaken by a person with disability who is in the first and second categories with the purpose of getting the needed services or reach the place where he /she gets such services.

Article 3: Exemption from transportation fare

A needy person with disability in the first and second categories is exempt from transportation fares when boarding State- owned public transport vehicles.

Article 4: Indentity card for a person with disability

For the purposes of Article 3 of this Order, a person with disabilities in the first and second categories shall obtain from authorized Organs a card allowing them to benefit from free transportation in State- owned public transport vehicles. Persons specified under this Article shall only be entitled to this benefit in case of necessary travels.

Article 5: Seats reserved for persons with disabilities in public transport vehicles

The State shall adopt an appropriate program that would facilitate persons with disabilities in general to board public transport vehicles by requiring public transport vehicles owners to reserve seats and entrance doors for persons with disabilities.

Article 6: Bus stops

All bus stops for public transport vehicles must be developed in such a way that they facilitate persons with disabilities to easily board vehicles.

Article 7: Repealing provision

All prior legal provisions contrary to this Order are hereby repealed.

Article 8: Commencement

This Order shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

**MINISTERIAL ORDER N° 20/18 OF
27/7/2009 DETERMINING THE
MODALITIES OF CLASSIFYING
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES INTO
BASIC CATEGORIES BASED ON THE
DEGREE OF DISABILITY**

The Minister of Health,

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 04 June 2003 as amended to date, especially in Articles 14, 120, 121 and 201;

Pursuant to Law n° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 relating to protection of disabled persons in general, especially in Article 2;

After consideration and approval by the Cabinet, in its session of 19/06/2009;

HEREBY ORDERS:

Article One: Purpose of this Order

This Order determines the modalities of classifying disabled persons into basic categories based on the degree of disability.

Article 2: Categories of disabled persons on the basis of disability

Disabled persons shall be classified under the following categories:

1. Physically disabled persons;
2. Sight-impaired persons;
3. Deaf-and-dumb persons or persons with either of these disabilities;
4. Mentally disabled persons;
5. Persons with disabilities not specified in the above categories approved by the Medical committee.

Article 3: Categories of disabled persons on the basis of the degree of disability

On the basis of the degree of disability ascertained by the Medical Committee established by relevant authorities, persons with disabilities in each category of disability specified under paragraph 2 of Article 2 are classified into the categories below in light of international disability standards:

1. between 90 and 100%;
2. between 70 and 89%;
3. between 50 and 69%;
4. between 30 and 49%;
5. below 30%.

After classification into one of the different categories specified under Article

2 and 3 of this Order, the Medical committee shall issue them a card that indicates the disability, degree of disability and the signature of the Medical Committee President.

Article 4: Classification of disabled persons

Classification of Disabled persons shall be implemented within One year from the date this Order comes into force.

Article 5: Report of the Medical Committee

The Medical Committee specified under Article 2 of this Order shall transmit on a yearly basis or whenever necessary a report to the Minister in charge of Health and the Minister in charge of Social Affairs copied to the Disabled Persons Federation.

Article 6: Repealing provision

All prior provisions contrary to this Order are hereby repealed.

Article 7: Commencement

This Order shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

**MINISTERIAL ORDER N°20/19 OF
27/7/2009 DETERMINING THE
MODALITIES OF FACILITATING
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACCESS
MEDICAL CARE**

The Minister of Health,

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 04 June 2003 as amended to date, especially in Articles 14, 120, 121 and 201;

Pursuant to Law n° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 relating to protection of disabled persons in general, especially in Article 17;

Pursuant to Law n° 62/2007 of 30/12/2007 establishing and determining the organization, functioning and management of the mutual health insurance scheme, especially in Article 30;

After consideration and approval by the Cabinet, in its session of 19/06/2009 ;

HEREBY ORDERS:

Article One: Purpose of this Order

This Order determines the modalities of facilitating persons with disabilities access Medical care.

Article 2: Insurance for persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities whose degree of disability is between 50% and 100% shall be the responsibility of the State as regards the mutual health insurance scheme while those whose degree of disability is between 30% and 49% shall be the responsibility of the State at 50% in respect of mutual health insurance premiums.

In respect of contributions of persons with disability to medical care and purchase of drugs, the care of those whose degree of disability is between 50% and 100% shall be the responsibility of the State while those whose degree of disability is between 30% and 49% and are needy shall also be the responsibility of the State.

Article 3: Prosthetics and orthotics to persons with disabilities

The provision of free prosthetics and orthotics to persons with disabilities who fall under different categories established by the Ministerial Order n° 20/18 of 27/07/2009 determining modes of classifying disabled persons into basic categories according to the degree of disability so as to enable different organs to guarantee the rights tailored to their condition shall not exceed the value provided by the Mutual Health Insurance Fund. However, the State shall entirely remain responsible for the care of persons whose degree of disability is between 70% and 100%.

The provisions of paragraph one of this Article shall also apply in case of replacement or repair of prosthetics and orthotics.

Article 4: Special services for persons with disabilities.

In order to facilitate persons with disabilities, each District Hospital shall provide special services for persons with disabilities.

Any person whose degree of disability is greater than 50% enjoys the privilege of seeing the Doctor first before others. This does not however affect the principle of according priority to seriously ill people.

Article 5: Repealing provision

All prior legal provisions contrary to this Order are hereby repealed
Article 6: Commencement

This Order shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda

**MINISTERIAL ORDER N° 03/19.19
OF 27/7/2009 DETERMINING THE
MODALITIES OF FACILITATING
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO
EASILY ACCESS EMPLOYMENT**

The Minister of Public Service and Labour ,

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 04 June 2003 as amended to date, especially in Articles 14, 120, 121 and 201;

Pursuant to Law n° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 relating to protection of disabled persons in general, especially in Article 20;

Pursuant to Law no 13/2009 of 27/05/2009 Regulating Labour in Rwanda in Articles 97, 98, 99 and 100;

After consideration and approval by the Cabinet, in its session of 19/06/2009;

HEREBY ORDERS:

Article One: Purpose of this Order

This Order determines the modalities of facilitating persons with disabilities to easily access employment.

Article 2: Rights of a person with disability to employment

With the exception of specific conditions referred to under this Order, a person with disabilities shall enjoy the same rights as other persons to employment and shall be offered by various employment Organs the facilitation required in the execution of work.

Article 3: Priority consideration during consideration

With respect to offering competitive employment, where a person with disability has the same results as that of a non-disabled person after competition, the person with disability should be accorded priority consideration for employment. With respect to offering non-competitive employment, when a person with disability has the same capacity as a non-disabled person, the person with disability should be accorded priority consideration for employment

No person should deny employment to a person with disability or dismiss him/her on grounds of disability.

Article 4: To sensitize persons with disabilities to create employment

After completing their secondary education, vocational training, or institutions of higher learning, persons with disabilities shall be placed on a list by the Labour Market Information System (LMIS) in order to be sensitised on seeking jobs and creating employment on the basis of their acquired knowledge and degrees of disability.

Article 5: Awards to employers who shall have offered employment to persons with disabilities

Employers who shall have offered employment to persons with disabilities up to five percent (5%) of their employees shall be officially given awards determined by the Minister in charge of labour.

Article 6: Repealing provision

All prior legal provisions contrary to this Order are hereby repealed.

Article 7: Commencement

This Order shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

**MINISTERIAL ORDER N° 01/09/
MININFOR OF 10/08/2009
DETERMINING THE MODALITIES
OF FACILITATING PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES IN MATTERS
RELATING TO COMMUNICATION**

The Minister of Information in the Office of the Prime Minister,

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 04 June 2003, as amended to date especially in Articles 14,120, 121 and 201;

Pursuant to Law n° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 relating to protection of disabled persons in general, especially in Article 26;

After consideration and approval by the Cabinet, in its session of 19/06/2009;

HEREBY ORDERS:

Article One: Purpose of this Order

This Order determines the modalities of facilitating persons with disabilities who are in the first and second categories in matters relating to communication.

Article 2: Modalities of interpreting for persons with disabilities

The public and private audio-visual press shall, within the limits of available resources, adopt appropriate modalities of interpreting in order to facilitate persons with disabilities to follow their programs.

Article 3: Repealing provision

All prior legal provisions contrary to this Order are hereby repealed.

Article 4: Commencement

This Order shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.