**Subject: Human Rights Council resolution 37/22**

1(a). Does your country have laws, policies, plans, strategies or guidelines at any level of government relating to raising awareness about persons with disabilities, in particular initiatives to:

* foster respect for the rights and. dignity of persons with disabilities;
* combat stereotypes , prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities ; or
* promote awareness of the contributions of persons with disabilities?

Yes. There is a Comprehensive Law on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which has 16 Articles that reiterate on the Government commitments to ensure protection of the rights of all people with disabilities in Iran[[1]](#footnote-1).

1(b). What are the challenges to implementing the above?

Employment, suitable housing and suitable urban facilities are among the main concerns expressed by the people with disabilities. Article 7 commits Iran government to make efforts to pave the disabled people way to employment and Article 2 requires the government to determine the suitability of public buildings, public places and public facilities for people with disabilities.

Our field survey show that, the government has made efforts to facilitate commuting for the disabled through adapting public places and buildings to their needs. There has been some progress in making public infrastructure and transportation more accessible to the people with disabilities[[2]](#footnote-2). Also, there are attempts by both the public and private sector to increase employment rate of the disabled.

However, our organization would like to draw the attention of the OHCHR to the fact that the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s imposed by the United States on Iran have not only seriously targeted the economy of the country and restricted the government resources to create employment opportunities for the disabled, but also, made the people with disabilities to encounter a far greater challenge for their life.

Other sectors directly targeted by UCMs include medicine, medical equipment and healthcare. The prices of these basic services have escalated and serious shortage of medicine and access to medical equipment[[3]](#footnote-3) are threatening the life and health of the disabled. We believe that UCMs have hampered the slow progress toward realization of the rights of people with disabilities countering all attempts toward protection of the rights of vulnerable groups.

2(a). What legislative and policy measures are taken to address hate crimes, hate speech and harmful practices against persons with disabilities?

2(b). In particular, are there legal remedies available for persons with disabilities seeking compensation and reparation? Are there legal provisions to sanction perpetrators, including through criminal law? Please provide information on their application in practice (e.g. cases of persons condemned for hate crimes against persons with disabilities) .

3(a). What steps have been taken to establish standards and/or good practices on the representation and portrayal of persons with disabilities in broadcast media , including codes, guidelines and other measures (legal, co-regulatory or self-regulatory)?

3(b). In addition, what legal framework, measures or good practices exist to regulate social media in accordance with Article 8 and human rights standards on freedom ·of expression?

4(a). Please provide information on the existence and implementation of the programs and activities, including successful examples of campaigns, related to raising awareness about persons with disabilities and their rights, and combating negative attitudes including through initiatives of:

* training, including human rights education;
* research, including studies on perception and attitudes;
* surveys and data collection.

4(b). Please indicate their objective, scope, target audience, impact (including available data), partners and participants, particularly the participation of, and role of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, and any key factors of success.

5. Please provide information on the role of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including children with disabilities, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all measures relating to awareness raising. Please provide detail on concrete mechanisms and activities undertaken for consultation and active involvement (e.g. regular meetings, online consultations, etc.).

The OHCHR would be grateful to receive relevant information at United Nations Office at Geneva, CH 1211 Geneva 10; fax. +41 22 917 90 08; e-mail: registry@ohchr.org; by 22 July 2019, in accessible format so that it can be posted on OHCHR's website. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Facundo Chavez Penillas at disability@ohchr.org or Ms. Victoria Lee at vlee@ohchr.org for further information or clarification.

I thank you in advance for your contribution to this important thematic study.

1. . https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p\_lang=en&p\_isn=91491&p\_country=IRN&p\_count=168 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . e.g. ramps are built for the people who would like to access building on wheelchairs and the underground train is made accessible to the blind. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . According to the officials, wheelchairs, adult diapers and medicine for chronic disease are among the daily challenges of the disabled. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)