

29 August 2011

Dnro 2536/8/11

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner For
Human Rights
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

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swalker@ohchr.org

Reference Your email 28 June 2011 (The Human Rights Council resolution 16/15)

Reply to your inquiry

Dear Madam/Sir,

With reference to your aforementioned email regarding the Human Rights Council resolution 16/15 concerning the rights of persons with disabilities (in political and public life), the Deputy Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland Maija Sakslin has asked me to inform you of the following.

In Finland, the municipalities are responsible for organising services and support for people with disabilities. These disability services (e.g. a transport service for the seriously disabled people by e.g. invalid taxis) make it possible to participate in political and public life to some extent (18 one-way trip a month). Those who are seriously disabled are also entitled to an individual/personal assistant who works specifically with disabled people and helps them to participate in society.

According to the Constitution of Finland, the Parliamentary Ombudsman and Deputy Ombudsmen to ensure that the courts of law and other authorities follow the law and fulfil their obligations. With regards of his or her duties, the Ombudsman monitors the implementation of fundamental and human rights.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has not been ratified in Finland yet. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs set up a working group assigned to examine any need for amending legislation and making other kinds of changes required for the ratification of the

convention. In the working group there are also representatives from organisations for disabled people. There will be a broad hearing in connection with the ratification of the above mentioned UN Convention – which means that the above mentioned organisations etc. can give comments on the amendments.

Yours sincerely,

Legal adviser



Minna Verronen