



DRAFT GENERAL COMMENT ON ARTICLE 6 (on Women and Girls with disabilities) OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (UN CRPD)

(To the Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities)

1. Introduction

At its 13th session, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted a draft of General Comment n°3 on women with disabilities, article 6 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In this regard, the Committee invites interested parties to provide written input on the draft Comments and feedback which should be submitted in one concise and focused document indicating precisely the paragraphs to which comments are being made and must not exceed 5 pages.

Pursuant to this invitation, the NCHR of Rwanda has analysed the draft document prepared by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and all over the document, recommends throughout it to consider different needs and issues of all types of disabilities, especially needs and issues of intellectual, visual and hearing impairments.

Otherwise, the NCHR of Rwanda makes the following few comments to some paragraphs

2. Inputs of the NCHR of Rwanda on some paragraphs of the document

- A. From the middle to the end of **paragraph 31**, the NCHR of Rwanda would like to add the following words (**in bold**): “The duty to respect requires State Parties not to take measures that undermine the full development, advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities. As such, existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against women and girls with disabilities must be modified, **completed** or abolished. Laws that do not allow women with disabilities to marry or have children are frequent examples for such legal discrimination. Further, the duty to respect implies to refrain from engaging in any act or practice that is inconsistent with article 6 and to ensure that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with it. Compliance with the Convention can be secured by employing gender and disability mainstreaming in all policies and programmes” **And especially, consider women and girls with disabilities in different human rights protection policies and programmes of human rights (promotion and protection of the family policy, gender policy, protection of children in difficulties policy, gender or disability mainstreaming guide, ...).**
- B. In the beginning of first part of **paragraph 32**, the NCHR of Rwanda would like to add the following words (in bold) : “The obligation to protect means that State Parties have to ensure that the rights of women and girls with disabilities are not infringed upon by private parties or organizations. Thus, State Parties must take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls with disabilities by any person, organization or private enterprise. **They must take all appropriate measures to protect women and girls with disabilities against all**

forms of violence.They must exercise due diligence to prevent and sanction such discrimination. It also includes the duty to exercise due diligence in ensuring that the development, advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities is not impeded by non-State actors, including social service providers”.

- C. In the second sentence of **paragraph 34**, the NCHR of Rwanda suggests to add other most important characteristics of human rights as following for example (in bold) : “The horizontal nature of article 6 already ensures that it is inextricably linked to all other substantive provisions of the CRPD. Furthermore modern international law states that all human rights are **inherent, inalienable**, universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. In addition to the articles that have an explicit reference to gender the rights of women and girls with disabilities under article 6 are particularly interrelated with the following provisions.
- D. In the beginning of **paragraph 39**, the NCHR of Rwanda would like to add the following words (in bold) “Accessible sexual and reproductive health services, facilities and equipment are required such as contraceptive information **in different formats including sign language and braille**, gynaecologist’s examination beds and mammography equipment”.
- E. In the beginning of **paragraph 67**, the NCHR of Rwanda suggests to take into account women’s organisations in general and to formulate the sentence like following (in bold) : “Engage **women and girls in general and particularly these who have disabilities** through their representative organisations, in drawing up and implementing legislation and policies and research towards the effective implementation of the CRPD, and in other decision-making processes on issues related to women and girls with disabilities. Networks and organisations of women and girls with disabilities need to be adequately facilitated”.