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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Item 9

Informal Document 2021/22

**Implementation of
the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
in the Economic Commission for Europe**

(for information)

Implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy in the Economic Commission for Europe

Note of the secretariat

1. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the States Members of the United Nations pledged to leave no one behind, including persons with disabilities. In January 2019, the United Nations adopted Resolution 74/144 “Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility”. Resolution “calls upon the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue to work collaboratively to accelerate the full and effective mainstreaming of disability inclusion into the United Nations system, including by implementing and reporting on the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy across its programmes and operations”.
2. The Secretary-General was invited by Resolution to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session in 2020 a progress report on steps taken by the United Nations system towards mainstreaming disability inclusion, including implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, within existing resources.
3. Pursuant to Resolution the Secretary General launched in June 2019 the Disability Inclusion Strategy with the aim to raise UN standards and performance on disability inclusion across all pillars of the work, from Headquarters to the field. The Strategy includes four core areas of responsibility: leadership, strategic planning and management, inclusiveness, programming and organizational culture.
4. To meet the requirements of the Strategy entities must incorporate disability inclusion in a meaningful way into the strategic planning of each entity. This activity, as stipulated in the UN Resolution, remains resource neutral. Thanks to the efforts of all its units, UNECE was able to improve its rating for the 2020 report in 6 of the 10 applicable indicators. Within two years of the launch of UNDIS, UNECE now “meets requirements” in seven categories. In some of the other categories, progress is dependent on guidance to be developed by lead-departments of the global Secretariat.
7. For its programmatic activities, UNECE again “exceeds requirements”. The Commission made significant progress to ensure the inclusion for people with disabilities, including in its normative and standard-setting work that are applied by member States and multiple stakeholders. Disability inclusion is a strong element, as evidenced in the outputs listed below, that are included in the Programmes of Work of the respective Subprogrammes. 2020 activities to promote/develop relevant UNECE normative instruments and good practices include for example:

<u>Subprogramme/instrument</u>	<u>2020 action towards disability inclusion</u>
<p><u>Environment</u></p> <p>- Aarhus Convention: to ensure effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters for every person, including for persons with disability; and</p>	<p>The work focused on raising awareness and building capacities of the governments and stakeholders to support inclusive access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in accordance with the Convention, the Maastricht Recommendations and forthcoming Recommendations on Electronic Information Tools. The issue has been presented by the secretariat and discussed during the annual Aarhus Centres meeting (online, 10-11 November 2020) organized by OSCE. Several national focal</p>

<p>- Protocol on Water and Health: further develop activities to implement the provisions of the Protocol on disability inclusion in actions aiming to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation.</p> <p>- Industrial Accidents Convention: awareness raising among Parties to the Convention on Art. 8 (emergency preparedness measures to respond to industrial accidents and extending its implementation towards people with disabilities); and formulation of provisions for vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities in procedures for determining harmful consequences of hazardous activities and adequate response measures.</p>	<p>points to the Aarhus Convention and Aarhus Centres organized awareness-raising activities at the national level.</p> <p>The updated Recommendations on promoting electronic information tools (EIT) include several recommendations on making the tools accessible for persons with disabilities and making into account their user needs.</p> <p>ngoing</p> <p>In 2020, the Industrial Safety Unit conducted background research on options for specific provisions of the Convention directed at vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities – for further consideration by the Parties.</p>
<p><u>Transport</u></p> <p>Promotion of relevant instruments, incl. in particular</p> <p>- 1958 UN Agreement on Vehicle Regulations, UN Regulation No. 107, Annex 8, re specifications on buses, coaches, vans and cars with specification to accommodate needs of passengers with reduced mobility, intellectual impairment.</p> <p>- Road Safety Activities to reduce injuries and death in traffic (incl. via 8 UN conventions on Road Safety, UN SG’s Special Envoy for Road Safety, hosting UN Road Safety Fund, servicing , ECOSOC Committee/sub-committees of experts on dangerous goods, capacity building national road safety performance review).</p>	<p>Work has continued on updating this Regulation in 2020 as well as efforts to promote further use of the UN agreement on Vehicle Regulation.</p> <p>Activities have continued to focus on the promotion of the Road Safety Conventions in relation also to the renewal of the UN Decade of Action. The secretariat collaborated with the Institute for European Traffic Law and the Council of Bureaux to draft “Charter of Road Traffic Victims’ Rights” (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2021/1), aiming to improve the situation of road traffic victims by alleviating the damage and pain suffered through the proposed application of ten Charter principles.</p> <p>THE PEP continues to work on activities related to people with reduced mobility and has recently completed a publication: “Recommendations for Green and Healthy Sustainable Transport – Building Forward Better” which identifies as one of its key recommendations leaving no one behind with a focus on people with reduced mobility.</p>

<p><u>Statistics</u></p> <p>- Publication of UNECE Recommendations for measuring older populations in institutions to guide national statistical offices on data collection, incl re people with disabilities</p>	<p>The recommendations were published in March 2020.</p>
<p><u>Forestry</u></p> <p>Outreach activities related to “Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in the Forest Sector” that includes a chapter on non-discrimination of minority groups</p> <p><u>Housing:</u></p> <p>“The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing”, incl. promotion of “the implementation of universal design principles in order to increase the usability of homes for all people across generational, gender and disability divides... “ (15.iii).</p> <p>ECE Country Profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management that include disability inclusion aspects.</p>	<p>The presentation about the Guidelines was prepared for the FAO World Forestry Congress (which was postponed to 2021).</p> <p>A joint press release UNECE/FAO/Forest Europe was prepared to launch the Guidelines.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><u>Population</u></p> <p>Include disability inclusion aspects in</p> <p>- Policy briefs #24 - "Ageing in sustainable and smart cities" and #25 "Older persons in emergency situations".</p> <p>- Preparatory work for the 4th review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS - draft guidelines for national reporting.</p> <p>- Road Map on Mainstreaming Ageing in Kazakhstan</p>	<p>Both policy briefs (#24 & #25) were completed.</p> <p>UNECE Guidelines for national reports on MIPAA/RIS issued in September 2020 call countries to report on disability-relevant issues (long-term care, dementia, etc.) in Parts II and in Part III.</p> <p>file:///C:/Users/gaucaite/Downloads/Guidelines_for_National_Reports-final_EN.pdf</p> <p>Development of the Road Map for mainstreaming ageing in Kazakhstan was postponed to 2021 due to liquidity crisis & lack of human resources</p>

8. Committed to advancing multilateral engagement that leaves no one behind, UNECE will continue building on the strong progress made. Capitalizing on UNECE’s role as a convening platform, including in collaboration with diverse expert communities, the Commission will also continue its close cooperation with Conference Management and other UNOG teams to strengthen disability inclusion in all meeting planning and servicing arrangements.