

UNGA

*United Nations General
Assembly*



Committee: United Nations General Assembly

Topic: Overcoming Challenges to Ensure Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

Written by: Adrian Ruizesparza Cid

Dear delegates,

Welcome to our SPISMUN 2024. Your chair, Diego Rosales, your moderator, your director Eugenio Leal Torres, and your secretary Antonio Lazcano are enthusiastic to have you in the United Nations General Assembly. To have you debate and discuss as a team the current worrying subjects seeking out creative ideas is a privilege and it's a pleasure to further meet you in this debate. Don't forget to enjoy and give your best during every stage of the event and as they say, *Shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you'll land among the stars*. We hope to see you engaging with, discussing, and trying to find solutions to our global problems. Good luck, delegates!

If you have any questions, suggestions, or remarks, please feel free to reach out to any of your chairs.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at:

spismunpaseo@sanpatricio.edu.mx

Sincerely,

Adrian Ruizesparza

I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is the main body that formulates UN policy. It began in 1945 in New York, USA, and discusses global issues through specific agenda items or sub-items before passing resolutions.



Important choices are also made by the General Assembly, such as approving the UN budget, electing non-permanent Security Council members, and appointing the Secretary-General on the Council's recommendation. Every year, the Assembly convenes in regular sessions from September to December, and then as needed after that. Through specialized agenda items or sub-items, it addresses certain topics and ultimately adopts resolutions.

Every session in the General Assembly Hall has a different seating layout. North Macedonia will hold the top seat in the Hall and the Main Committees during the 78th Session (2023–2024) (followed by all the other countries, in English alphabetical order).

II. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

Having a disability comes with special difficulties that can significantly affect a person's day-to-day activities. The many obstacles that people with disabilities must overcome; from physical barriers to social stigmatization, require fortitude, resiliency, and support.



Physical accessibility is among the most pressing issues that people with disabilities must endure. Insufficient infrastructure, such as ramps or elevators, makes it more difficult for them to move around public areas, workplaces, and educational facilities. Even basic activities like using public transportation or entering a building can become difficult or even impossible without the right accommodations. In addition to impeding independence, accessibility issues also serve to perpetuate feelings of marginalization and reliance on others.

Attitudinal and social barriers often prove as significant hurdles as physical obstacles. People with disabilities frequently encounter prejudice, discrimination, and negative stereotypes that undermine their self-worth and potential. This bias can manifest in various forms, such as exclusion from social activities, limited employment opportunities, or unequal access to education. These barriers perpetuate a cycle of marginalization and can lead to feelings of isolation and diminished quality of life.

For those with impairments, finding gainful employment is still a major obstacle. Many encounter prejudices and preconceived ideas about their abilities, which limits their employment opportunities. The issue is made worse by the lack of workplace accommodations and inclusive hiring

procedures. Because of this, people with disabilities frequently experience unrealized potential, financial hardships, and a reliance on social support networks.

For those with impairments, finding gainful employment is still a major obstacle. Many encounter prejudices and preconceived ideas about their abilities, which limits their employment opportunities. The issue is made worse by the lack of workplace accommodations and inclusive hiring procedures. Because of this, people with disabilities frequently experience unrealized potential, financial hardships, and a reliance on social support networks.

III. CURRENT ISSUES

Today the world is in a more inclusive state than it was 50 years ago, now it welcomes, accepts, and includes people with disabilities. In developed countries like the United States, there is great awareness regarding the needs of these groups



of people. Now there are developing countries, such as Mexico, that are slowly adapting their cities for these people; and there are already countries in Africa that are still developing and are including this type of facilities for the group of people with disabilities as part of their SDG agenda for 2030.

Netherlands:

The Netherlands is regarded as one of the most wheelchair-accessible nations in Europe. Nearly all buses and trains in the Netherlands are wheelchair-accessible thanks to significant investments made by the government in accessible public transportation. In addition, a lot of eateries provide blind diners with Braille menus, and the nation is full of accessible parks and tourist destinations.

United Arab Emirates:

Similarly, the United Arab Emirates is a nation that is leading the way in accessible travel. Through the provision of free public transportation passes and reserved parking spaces for drivers with disabilities, the UAE has made significant investments to facilitate the mobility of its disabled citizens. The nation also conducts a variety of programs and events to raise public awareness of inclusion and accessibility concerns.

India:

Since most disabled people in India live in rural areas, accessibility, availability, and cost-effectiveness of rehabilitation services are important factors to take into account. It is very difficult to conduct research on the prevalence of disabilities, suitable intervention techniques, and how to apply them in the current Indian context. We gathered and examined recent data from Medline and other sources.

Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan:

Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are among the world's least accessible nations and are located in Central and South Asia. In addition, there is a dearth of accessible transportation in these nations, as most sidewalks are too



small to accommodate wheelchairs. Likewise, there is a dearth of housing that is appropriate for people with disabilities.

México:

Due to erroneous assumptions that they lack the mental capacity to make decisions, many people with disabilities have been denied their right to make decisions since 1928 as a result of Mexico City's Civil Code and other laws governing legal capacity throughout the country.

United Kingdom:

In the UK, 16.0 million people were estimated to be disabled in 2021/22. This amounts to 24 percent of the population. Age-related increases in the prevalence of disability were observed: 11% of children, 23% of working-age adults, and 45% of adults over the State Pension age were disabled.

Brazil:

In Brazil, 8.9% of people aged 2 and over—roughly 18.6 million people—had a disability of some kind. The information comes from the 2022 Continuous PNAD's Persons with Disability module.

IV. UN ACTION AND RESOLUTIONS



The United Nations has worked to better the lives and status of people with disabilities since its founding. The United Nations' core values—human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the equality of all people—are the foundation upon which its concern for the rights and well-being of disabled people is based. People with disabilities have the right to

exercise their civil, political, social, and cultural rights on an equal basis with people without disabilities, as confirmed by the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, and related human rights instruments.

The UN has been working on this, and these are some of the plans they are trying to give. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which offers special education; the World Health Organization (WHO), which offers



health and prevention-related technical assistance; the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), which supports programs for children with disabilities and offers technical assistance in partnership with Rehabilitation International, a non-governmental organization; and the International Labour Organization (ILO), which enhances economic integration and improves labor market access through international labor standards and technical cooperation initiatives, have all made significant contributions to improving the lives of disabled people; the International Labour Organization (ILO), which enhances economic integration and improves access to the labor market through the implementation of international labor standards and technical cooperation initiatives; the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), which funds programs for children with disabilities and provides technical assistance in partnership with Rehabilitation International, a non-governmental organization.

V. ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. Does your country have a problem with people who have disabilities?
2. How many privileges do people with disabilities have in your country?
3. Is your country adapted for people with disabilities?
4. How attentive is the government of your country to people with disabilities?
5. In your country is there abuse of power against these people?
6. Are people with disabilities in danger in your country?
7. Do disabled people in your country get a good education, health, and salary?

VI. CONCLUSION

The evolution of attitudes toward people with disabilities is highlighted in the conclusion. Even with persistent obstacles like barriers to employment and physical accessibility, progress has been made, particularly in developed nations where awareness and accommodations are more common. Nonetheless, the transition to inclusion is still ongoing in developing countries, as evidenced by the slow progress made in integrating the disabled and adapting cities. All things considered, even though there have been advancements made worldwide, more needs to be done to guarantee fair treatment and opportunities for all people with disabilities.

VII. REFERENCES

UN enable - the UN and persons with disabilities. (s. f.). Retrieved on December 13, 2023. From:

<https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disun.htm#:~:text=The%20contribution%20ofn%20United%20Nations,assistance%20in%20health%20and%20prevention>

Qi To Happiness Foundation - ESI. (2023, 14 julio). *Overcoming challenges: The struggles faced by people with disabilities.* Retrieved on December 13, 2023.

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/overcoming-challenges-struggles-faced-people?trk=article-ssr-frontend-pulse_more-articles_related-content-card

Accessibility and inclusion around the world: The most and least accessible countries. (2023, 22 febrero). Sesame Access Systems.

<https://www.sesameaccess.com/about/articles/accessibility-and-inclusion-around-the-world-the-most-and-least-accessible-countries>

The Americans with Disabilities Act. (s. f.). ADA.gov. Retrieved on December 13, 2023. <https://www.ada.gov/>

Disability Rights UK |. (s. f.). Retrieved on December 13, 2023

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/>

Disability: IN. (2022, 7 septiembre). *Mexico - Disability: IN.* Retrieved on December 13, 2023 <https://disabilityin.org/country/mexico/>

Disability: IN. (2022b, septiembre 8). *Brazil - Disability: IN.* Retrieved on December 13, 2023 <https://disabilityin.org/country/brazil/>