



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 19 May 2025

WK 6645/2025 INIT

LIMITE

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REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION

From:	European Commission
To:	Working Party on Human Rights
Subject:	REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: Statement of the European Union for the General Debate - 18th Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Delegates will find below the Statement of the European Union for the General Debate at the 18th Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Please submit your comments via the consultation platform on Delegates Portal before **Friday, 23 May, 12:00.**

**Statement of the European Union for the General Debate
18th Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities
10-12 June 2025**

*[Maximum speaking time of **3 minutes** for each State Party]*

[328 words – approx. 3 minutes]

Dear President, dear friends,

I speak on behalf of the **European Union and its Member States.**

We have reached the midterm of the **Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** through which the EU has advanced considerably implementing the CRPD.

Almost all flagships and actions set in the strategy until this year have been delivered. Our accessibility resource centre AccessibleEU is operational and has organised over **200 events**, **providing** trainings to **35000 participants**. All deliverables of the Disability Employment Package including on employment services, hiring perspectives, combating stereotypes, ensuring reasonable accommodation are discussed with stakeholders. A guidance on independent living related to EU funds in line with the CRPD is available. The European

Disability and Parking Cards are adopted allowing persons with disabilities to get benefits and special conditions across the EU. The EU Artificial Intelligence Act ensures that persons are protected from possible risks of AI to their health, safety and fundamental rights, such as discrimination, bias or privacy violations. These rules will provide an important contribution to the protection of persons with disabilities from risks of discrimination through AI.

The EU actively participated in the Global Disability Summit and made significant commitments to the disability inclusiveness of EU international action. The EU has been an active supporter of disability mainstreaming in the **International Conference on Financing for Development**.

A highlight of this year has been the constructive dialogue with the CRPD Committee from which the EU received recommendations related to a large number of EU policies.

We are now reflecting on the next five years of implementation of our Strategy, to reinforce our efforts wherever necessary, taking due account of the Concluding Observations. We are confident that together with the Member States and civil society,

in particular representative disability organisations, whom the EU supports financially to have their voices represented in EU policy making, the strategy will be reinvigorated, and the EU will continue to significantly advance in the implementation of the CRPD.

Thank you.