



European Union
Statement

WHO

152nd Executive Board

(30 January - 7 February 2023)

**Item 17 - The highest attainable standard of health for persons with
disabilities**

Geneva, 4 February 2023

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152nd Session of the Executive Board

Item 17 - The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities

EU Statement

Chair,

Director-General,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

This statement is made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina* and the potential candidate country Georgia align themselves with this statement.

EU and its MS welcome the WHO Global Report on Health Inequity for Persons with Disabilities, noting it is the first report in over ten years and brings to attention the rights of persons with disabilities highlighting that an estimated 1.3 billion persons live with worldwide a mental or physical disabilities today. Many persons with disabilities continue to die earlier, have poorer health, and face challenges and limitations in their everyday life

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Acknowledging Article 25 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the EU highlights the importance ensuring their right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination.

The EU calls for the leadership role of Ministries of Health in ensuring equal access to all health services, including during health emergencies for every person with to gender-sensitivie health services, vaccination services and NCD screening and prevention, taking into consideration sexual and reproductive health and rights in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the outcomes of their review conferences and article 34 of the new EU Consensus on Development.

We call for disability-specific health services to include specialized and differentiated intensive rehabilitation services for persons with complex rehabilitation needs.

We call for public health authorities to take into account experiences and perspectives of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all health-related matters, including by actively facilitating their full and meaningful participation in the planning and implementation of programmes, policies and in decision-making processes.

As a party to the convention, and in accordance with the Article 25 of CRPD, we encourage MS to take steps, working in cooperation with WHO to implement the recommendations and actions proposed in the new Global Report, also called for by the WHA Resolution 74.8 on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities.

I thank you.