

Human Rights Council – 43rd Session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

28 February 2020

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report and for the significant work undertaken throughout her mandate to strengthen system-wide inclusion, accessibility, and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities across the United Nations.

Australia has committed to supporting implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, and encourages all UN entities to be proactive in enhancing disability inclusion across their organisations and programs.

We note that there are only five accessible meetings in this Session's programme of work, and would encourage this Council to ensure that more Human Rights Council meetings and activities are conducted in an accessible format for people with disabilities.

People with disabilities have the right to be treated with dignity as valued members of society. The findings and recommendations from Australia's ongoing Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability will inform Australian governments on how to prevent, and better protect, those with disability from experiencing ill-treatment.

Could the Special Rapporteur share examples where awareness-raising campaigns have integrated a disability rights perspective, and effectively challenged negative prejudice to promote equal participation? [180 words]

[OR]

Welcoming the recommendation that accessibility standards allow equal access to media content and digital environments, we ask what gaps were identified, and what opportunities exist, to raise awareness about the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities in the digital space? [197 words]