

Draft Statement to the Human Rights Council – 46th session

Item 5 3 March Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities

Theme: Participation in sport under article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2 Minutes.

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen

1. The GANHRI Working Group on Rights of Persons with Disabilities¹ thanks you for the opportunity to contribute to this interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities and participation in sport.
2. We welcome the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its guidance for States on meeting their obligations to facilitate persons with disabilities participation in physical and sporting activities.
3. We concur that in the context of lower life expectancy, higher risks for chronic or comorbid conditions and overall poorer health outcomes, that unrestricted access to the physical, social and leadership benefits derived from physical activity and sport is particularly critical.
4. Of particular concern, is how early exclusion begins with pre-school children with disabilities often unable to join in play activities with their peers, and the negative impact of barriers continues throughout education and across the life span. In order to equalise access to the many benefits sport and other physical activity brings,
5. We urge States:

¹WG members (South Africa, Kenya, Morocco (observer), Canada; El Salvador, New Zealand, Philippines, Georgia and Finland)

- a. to ensure universal design is the default approach for public activity spaces and to also promote and encourage its use by third parties,
 - b. to support and fund modifications for facilities or equipment where equal access is not achieved through universal design,
 - c. to work with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations to develop disability inclusive practice expectations for sport and physical activity bodies and,
 - d. to make active demonstration of these practices a pre-requisite for government funding to these entities. and finally
 - e. to provide equitable funding for disability specific sporting and physical activity bodies
6. Physical activity and sport bring people together in common purpose and enjoyment and in doing so break down many barriers. Persons with disabilities people must be able to contribute to, and benefit from, these core pillars of social and cultural life.

Thank you