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**Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral
International Convention on the Protection and
Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons
with Disabilities**

Second session

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**Letter dated 18 June 2003 from the Deputy Permanent
Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and
Integral International Convention on the Protection and
Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the draft Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, which the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has prepared as a contribution to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

(Signed) Adriana **Pulido Santana**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 18 June 2003 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

Draft submitted by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Preamble

The States parties to this Convention,

(a) Considering that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms the worth of the person and is based on the principles of dignity and equality inherent in human beings,

(b) Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein,

(c) Considering that all human beings have the right to protection against all forms of discrimination based on status, race, age, sex or disability,

(d) Considering that the States parties to the International Covenants on human rights have the obligation to guarantee to all persons, without distinction or discrimination, equity in the enjoyment of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

(e) Recognizing the actions taken and guidelines issued by the various bodies of the United Nations and by the General Assembly aimed at promoting and protecting the quality of life of persons with disability, as set forth in the resolutions, declarations, regulations and recommendations adopted in order to promote the exercise of their rights and promote equality of opportunity,

(f) Bearing in mind the International Labour Organization Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention (No. 159); the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971); the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX) of 9 December 1975); the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982); the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador" (1988); the Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and for the Improvement of Mental Health Care (General Assembly resolution 46/119 of 17 December 1991); the Caracas Declaration of the Pan-American Health Organization; the Organization of American States (OAS)

resolution on the situation of persons with disabilities in the American Hemisphere (AG/RES.1249 (XXIII-0/93)); General Assembly resolution 48/97 of 20 December 1993 on the International Day of Disabled Persons; the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993); the Managua Declaration of December 1993; the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/23); the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted in March 1995; the OAS resolution on the situation of persons with disabilities in the American hemisphere (AG/RES.1356 (XXV-0/95)); the Panama Commitment to Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere (AG/RES.1369/XXVI-0/96); the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Convention No. A-65 of 1999); the Declaration on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 2 August 2001; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/61 on the human rights of persons with disabilities; and General Assembly resolution 56/115 of 19 December 2001 on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century,

(g) Recognizing the progress made through the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Disabled Persons and the proclamation of the United Nations Decade for Persons with Disabilities, 1983-1992,

(h) Considering the recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Committee on the elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities,

(i) Concerned, however, at the fact that despite these efforts, persons with disabilities continue to be subject to segregation and serious discrimination,

(j) Recalling that discrimination against anyone on the basis of any structural or functional absence or impairment or any temporary or permanent limitation, restriction, obstruction or dysfunction in respect of human beings' relationship to their environment constitutes a violation of the principles of equal rights and respect for human dignity and impedes the participation of persons with disabilities under conditions of equality in social, economic, political and cultural life,

(k) Recognizing that in order to ensure equality of opportunity for persons with disabilities, societies must act to guarantee their access to the physical, economic, social and cultural environment,

(l) Emphasizing that in order to achieve equality of opportunity for persons with disabilities, the exercise of all political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights established in the International Covenants and in other human rights instruments must be guaranteed,

(m) Bearing in mind that in order to guarantee the exercise by persons with disabilities of all the rights enshrined in the International Covenants and in other human rights instruments, all obstacles to their full participation under conditions of equality in all spheres of social, economic, cultural and political life must be removed and their full participation in normal education, sports and employment must be achieved,

(n) Concerned at the fact that extreme poverty, marginalization, social exclusion, war and underdevelopment contribute to the existence of high disability rates, since the great majority of persons with disabilities live in developing countries,

(o) Bearing in mind that, in many cases, disability can be prevented by creating conditions of equity and thus by increasing the level of development and quality of life of the world's people,

(p) Recognizing that the strengthening of international peace and security and the prevention of conflict help reduce the high rates of disability in the world;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Object

The object of this Convention is to:

Promote, protect and ensure the exercise and full enjoyment of all the rights of persons with disabilities;

Eliminate all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities in the political, civil, economic, social and cultural spheres;

Ensure full participation of persons with disabilities in economic and social life, under conditions of equality of treatment and of opportunity; and

Promote international cooperation in achieving the objectives of this Convention.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Convention:

"Persons with disabilities" means persons with any form of physical, intellectual or sensory absence or impairment, whether structural, functional or both, which constitutes a permanent or temporary limitation, restriction, obstruction or dysfunction in respect of human beings' relationship to their environment that may be caused or aggravated by the economic and social environment.

"Discrimination against persons with disabilities" means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on social participation, based on a disability which has the effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by a person with a disability of his or her human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, employment, educational, sports or any other sphere of public life.

"Impairment" means any physical, intellectual or sensory anomaly, whether structural, functional or both, which constitutes a permanent or temporary limitation, restriction, obstruction or dysfunction in respect of human beings' relationship to their environment.

"Prevention" means the adoption of measures aimed at limiting or preventing the occurrence of disabling illnesses or accidents and at preventing impairments,

where these have occurred, from having adverse physical, psychological and social consequences.

“*Rehabilitation*” means a process aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to achieve and maintain their social integration and an optimal physical, sensory and intellectual functional level consistent with their anatomical and physiological capacities.

“*Social integration*” means the effective involvement and participation of persons with disabilities in social development processes through various types of organizations of themselves, their families and social groups. Employment; inclusion in education, sports and cultural life; participation in social processes and activities to improve the quality of life; health care; and environmental protection are social integration activities.

Article 3

Purposes

In order to achieve the objectives of this Convention, the States parties undertake to:

1. Take all necessary measures, including legislation, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities and to promote and protect their rights and dignity by, inter alia:

- Incorporating the legal equality of persons with disabilities in their national legislation;
- Amending or repealing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, and enacting legislation to prohibit and punish them;
- Developing appropriate legislation, adapted to modern society, to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;
- Enacting regulations to guarantee compensation for harm to persons with disabilities who have been subject to discrimination.

2. Adopt specific measures necessary for the full participation of persons with disabilities in all activities of social and economic life.

3. Incorporate into national censuses information, disaggregated by age, sex and specific type of disability, on the living conditions of persons with disabilities, including detailed information on their access to public services, rehabilitation programmes, education and employment.

4. Guarantee the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities and their families in the development and evaluation of measures and policies for ensuring the implementation of this Convention.

Article 4

Equality of opportunity

Adoption by States parties of positive or compensatory legislation or public policies which establish differential treatment aimed at promoting de facto equality of opportunity for persons with disabilities shall not be considered discrimination.

These special measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment and the other objectives for which they were developed have been achieved.

Article 5
Special situations of vulnerability

States parties undertake to adopt the specific measures necessary in all areas covered by this Convention in order to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, especially those who are in special situations of vulnerability by reason of their sex, age, race, ethnic origin or other status.

Article 6
Access to the physical environment, housing and transport

The States parties to this Convention undertake to promote, regulate and update their domestic legislation in order to ensure that:

- Urban outfitting and public facilities and services have the adaptations necessary to facilitate access and use by and movement of persons with disabilities;
- Vehicles and public transport services allow access by and movement of persons with disabilities;
- Signs and basic forms of communication for freedom of movement and access to all services are installed;
- Construction and adaptation of housing comply with regulations governing accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- Specific percentages of affordable housing for persons with disabilities and their families and facilities for payment are mandated under government programmes in this area;
- Participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the regulation of such measures is ensured.

Article 7
Promotion of changes in attitude

States parties shall promote the modification of stereotypes, social and cultural patterns, customary practices and any other type of practices which lead to segregation or discrimination or which prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their rights. To this end, States parties shall:

- Adopt measures to raise society's awareness of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, including the creation of awareness-raising programmes at all levels of mainstream education;
- Encourage the media to project a positive, non-stereotypical image of persons with disabilities and their families;
- Develop media campaigns to inform the persons concerned and the general public of existing programmes aimed at improving opportunities for persons with disabilities;

- Guarantee the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation of these measures.

Article 8

Access to information

States parties undertake to ensure that persons with disabilities and their families have access to full information on their rights and available services and programmes. To this end, they shall adopt, among others, the following measures:

- Develop strategies to make information services and documentation accessible for different groups of persons with disabilities, using appropriate technologies for each type of disability;
- Encourage the mass media, especially television, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities;
- Ensure that government programmes offered to the general public consistently use simultaneous interpreters for persons with auditory impairments and language difficulties;
- Promote access to the use and operation of new technologies for persons with disabilities.

Article 9

Promotion of prevention

States parties shall take measures to prevent and reduce the incidence of disability. They undertake to:

- Adopt the programmes and actions necessary to eliminate the factors which give rise to or aggravate disabilities, such as poverty, unemployment, physical violence within and outside the home, early pregnancy, lack of medical monitoring and nutritional support during pregnancy, deficiencies in health-care and rehabilitation services, lack of services for older persons, accidents, drug and alcohol abuse, unsuitable medical practices and the existence of anti-personnel landmines;
- Provide information and services in order to detect and reduce early symptoms of disability in a timely manner.

Article 10

Health-care and rehabilitation services

States parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to receive the quality medical and comprehensive rehabilitation services that they require. To this end, they shall adopt appropriate measures to:

- Improve, adapt and modernize the provision of rehabilitation services so that they are sufficient to provide all persons with disabilities with health-care and rehabilitation services for each type of disability;
- Ensure that all medical and nursing staff, as well as other health-care professionals, are properly qualified, up to date in their knowledge, and have access to appropriate technologies and treatment methods in order to provide quality assistance to persons with disabilities;

- Ensure that persons with disabilities and their families participate in decision-making concerning the feasibility and type of medical or therapeutic treatment appropriate in each case;
- Guarantee that persons with disabilities, especially women, nursing mothers and children, receive quality medical attention within State health-care systems;
- Adopt all measures necessary to guarantee that the medical services provided to persons with disabilities include the following:
 - Early diagnosis and intervention;
 - Dignified, appropriate and modern medical assistance and treatment that includes the use of new technologies;
 - Psychological counselling and social and other assistance for persons with disabilities and their families;
 - Training in self-care activities, mobility and orientation, communication, and skills for everyday living;
 - An adequate coordination system for inter-institutional referral and counter-referral, as appropriate.

Article 11
Guarantee of personal dignity

States parties must ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from public health services or subjected without their freely obtained consent to any kind of medical or scientific experiment and that any kind of exploitation or abusive or degrading treatment in hospitals and psychiatric institutions is avoided.

Article 12
Permanent mental and intellectual disability

States undertake to adopt the measures necessary to improve mental health services and the quality of care and guarantee that persons suffering from permanent and severe mental illness and intellectual impairment are treated with due regard for their rights and dignity. To this end, they must ensure that:

- The diagnosis of a mental illness or an intellectual impairment is made in accordance with internationally accepted scientific standards;
- No person with an illness is subjected to physical restraint or involuntary seclusion without the intervention and authorization of the competent medical and legal authorities and the knowledge of his or her family;
- Public and private psychiatric institutions are subject to special regulations and strict supervision by the health authorities to ensure that the living conditions and treatment administered therein and the food provided to patients in those institutions are consistent with respect for their dignity and human rights;
- Persons employed in such institutions have proper professional qualifications, receive continuing training and are subject to periodic psychological, ethical and moral evaluation;

- Patients and their representatives or families have access to all information concerning them in the medical records maintained by the psychiatric institution and that mechanisms are in force for challenges or complaints in cases involving abuse or negligence.

Article 13

Education

States parties shall adopt all measures necessary to eliminate segregation and discrimination against persons with disabilities and to ensure their inclusion, retention and participation, under conditions of equal opportunity, in mainstream educational activities at all levels. To this end they shall:

- Include the education of persons with disabilities in national educational planning, curriculum development and school organization in order to guarantee their access to the mainstream educational system;
- Guarantee that persons with disabilities receive a public education, free of charge, in all education methods and levels;
- Promote the creation, production and distribution of teaching materials and technical assistance to meet the educational needs of persons with disabilities;
- Promote regulations to ensure that the design of school premises includes the infrastructure required to meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities;
- Create, design and adapt, within mainstream curricula, special teaching and evaluation systems suited to the specific needs of persons with disabilities;
- Establish continuing training and refresher programmes for teachers and teaching assistants involved in the education of persons with disabilities;
- Involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the studies needed for the adaptation of educational planning and curricula.

Article 14

Employment

States parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to have a job appropriate to their condition, and undertake to adopt all measures necessary for their integration into the labour market, under conditions of equality. To this end they shall take, among others, the following steps:

- Design and implement policies that allow persons with disabilities access to and continuation in the labour market through the use of positive measures to promote their access to employment;
- Promote incentives so that individual and collective labour agreements protect persons with disabilities in the area of employment, job promotion and working conditions;
- Implement guidance, instruction, training, retraining, upgrading and employment programmes for persons with disabilities and persons who assist them;
- Grant fiscal and financial incentives and enact special regulations for companies which hire persons with disabilities and facilitate their freedom to

attend medical appointments, undergo therapy and engage in any other activity required for their comprehensive rehabilitation;

- Prohibit any regulations and discriminatory practices which deny persons with disabilities access to employment or limit their opportunities for job retention and promotion;
- Promote regulations to encourage the design and adaptation of workplaces, working hours and work instruments to make them accessible for persons with disabilities;
- Prohibit any regulations and practices which discriminate against persons with disabilities in the area of wages, working conditions and benefits;
- Establish criminal, financial and administrative penalties for violation and disregard of rules and regulations or failure to implement recommendations which protect and promote the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities;
- Design and implement awareness-raising campaigns to overcome negative attitudes and prejudices that affect persons with disabilities in the workplace.

Article 15

Social security

States parties undertake to eliminate all laws and practices which limit the right of persons with disabilities to social security benefits. They shall ensure recognition of this right by adopting measures to:

- Guarantee that social security systems and other social welfare programmes for the general public do not exclude persons with disabilities;
- Design and implement social security programmes that cater for the specific needs of persons with disabilities;
- Ensure that the lack of formal or permanent employment on the part of persons with disabilities does not curtail their access to social security services;
- Provide the specific types of technical aids to mobility, transfer, auditory or visual perception and other special devices that persons with disabilities require for the improvement of their quality of life and their social inclusion and integration.

Article 16

Protection of families

States parties recognize that persons with disabilities are fully entitled to form their own families, except in serious cases of mental deficiency as established by national laws. To this end, they shall take measures to guarantee that:

- Laws do not discriminate against persons with disabilities in respect of marriage, procreation and inheritance;
- Persons with disabilities have the sex education and family planning information they need;
- Special protection and support are promoted for women with disabilities during pregnancy, the post-partum period and breastfeeding;

- Campaigns are undertaken to change negative attitudes and social prejudices towards sexuality, marriage and parenthood of persons with disabilities.

Article 17

Sexual abuse and institutional violence

States parties recognize that persons with disabilities are vulnerable to various forms of sexual abuse in educational, employment and health-care centres and to physical and psychological violence within the family. They therefore undertake to:

- Characterize violence within and outside the home and sexual abuse committed against persons with disabilities as offences under national law and to adopt the measures needed to penalize them;
- Promote measures to ensure that guidance and protection services in respect of these types of abuse are offered as part of rehabilitation services;
- Provide persons with disabilities and their families with information concerning the measures adopted to prevent violence and various forms of sexual abuse within and outside the home.

Article 18

Social integration and participation

States parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to participate fully in social, cultural, sports and recreational activities. To this end they shall adopt the following measures:

- Include in national laws, regulations and quality standards the obligation to provide adapted facilities to afford persons with disabilities access to and use of facilities and services in educational, social, cultural, artistic, sports and recreational centres;
- Encourage national sports organizations to promote and generate programmes which facilitate the integration of persons with disabilities into their routine activities and national and international competitions;
- Promote the establishment of scholarship programmes and special incentives to facilitate access by persons with disabilities to artistic and sports activities;
- Hold systematic consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities concerning the creation and development of social, cultural, artistic, sports and recreational programmes;
- Encourage persons with disabilities to exercise the right to use public spaces of a social, cultural, sports and recreational character.

Article 19

Political rights

The States parties to this Convention undertake to:

- (a) Guarantee the exercise of the right to universal and secret suffrage of all persons with disabilities and, for that purpose, include in election mechanisms the use of instruments and specialized technologies for each type of disability or stipulate that aides shall be made available to provide assistance in voting.

(b) Repeal laws and regulations that impede or limit the access of persons with disabilities to civil service posts and as candidates for elective office.

(c) Guarantee and protect the right of persons with disabilities to freedom of association and to form their own organizations in order to participate in political and social processes.

Article 20

Legal aid

States parties undertake to ensure that all prosecuted or convicted disabled persons enjoy all their rights, especially the right to have the free assistance of interpreters, translators or paralegal specialists to conduct their defence and the right to receive specialized health and rehabilitation services.

Article 21

National monitoring and evaluation bodies

States parties undertake to establish or strengthen institutions for the intragovernmental coordination, design and implementation of policies to address the needs of disabled persons at the central, regional, departmental or provincial and local government levels, in accordance with their internal legal systems, which shall be responsible for ensuring the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. Organizations of persons with disabilities and their families shall be represented in such bodies at all levels.

The principal functions of such institutions shall include the permanent monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, in particular of the objectives established in article 3, and the formulation of appropriate recommendations for its fulfilment to the relevant government bodies.

The institutions to which this article refers may assume at the national level, preferably, the structure of presidential office, council, institute or department. If they are not attached to the Office of the President of the Republic, they shall be assigned to ministries responsible for social development policies and programmes.

Such institutions shall function as mechanisms for coordination with disabled persons' organizations at the national, provincial, departmental, regional or local level.

The institutions established shall conduct a triennial evaluation of national implementation of the Convention and of the measures to be applied in order to fulfil its objectives.

Article 22

Intergovernmental cooperation

States parties agree to consult and cooperate with each other regarding the implementation of the provisions of this Convention. To that end they undertake to promote:

Consultation and international cooperation mechanisms for the prevention of disabilities. Regional and international programmes to comprehensively target

disability as a common problem, ensure equal opportunities and treatment for persons with disabilities and achieve all the objectives set forth in this Convention.

Effective exchange of the latest advances in scientific research and the development of technology pertaining to the prevention of disabilities and the treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of persons with disabilities.

Research, training and refresher training through inter-country and international events such as seminars, congresses, symposia, courses, workshops and meetings of various kinds.

Article 23

Monitoring Committee

1. In order to monitor the implementation of this Convention, a Committee of Experts on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter called "the Committee") shall be established, the functions of which shall be as set forth below. The Committee shall consist of 12 experts of high moral standing and recognized competence in the area of protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, serving in their personal capacity.

2. Members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties. Each State party may propose one person from among its own nationals.

3. The initial election shall be held, at the latest, six months following the date on which the Convention enters into force. At least six months prior to the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States parties inviting them to submit their nominations within a period of three months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list, in alphabetical order, of all the persons nominated, indicating the States parties that proposed them, and shall send it to the States parties.

4. Committee members shall be elected at a meeting of the States parties convened by the Secretary-General and held at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which a quorum shall be constituted by the attendance of two thirds of the States parties, those candidates who obtain the highest number of votes and an absolute majority of votes of the representatives of States parties present and voting shall be considered elected to the Committee.

5. Committee members shall be elected for a period of four years. They may be re-elected if their candidature is put forward again.

6. In order to fill casual vacancies, the State party whose expert has terminated his or her functions as a Committee member shall appoint another member from among its nationals, subject to the approval of the Committee.

Article 24

Functions of the Committee

1. The Committee's functions shall be to evaluate the national reports submitted annually by States parties on the progress and difficulties in implementing this Convention and make specific recommendations to States parties, specialized agencies and other competent organs further to advance the implementation of this Convention.

2. The Committee shall identify areas of cooperation among States parties, and between these and the specialized agencies and other competent organs, that will facilitate implementation of this Convention. To that end the Committee, after evaluating the national reports, shall transmit its recommendations to the States parties and to the representatives of the specialized agencies and other competent organs.
3. The Committee may transmit to the specialized agencies and other competent organs, reports of States parties that contain requests for financial and technical assistance, together with the Committee's observations and suggestions.
4. In order to identify progress and difficulties in implementing this Convention and make specific recommendations to States parties, specialized agencies and other competent organs, the Committee shall invite the specialized agencies, other competent organs and non-governmental organizations to participate in studying the implementation of this Convention and to make recommendations thereon.
5. The Committee may seek technical assistance from United Nations organs at any stage of the report evaluation process or during the implementation of its final recommendations.
6. The Committee shall submit an annual report to the States parties and to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities pursuant to this Convention.

Article 25
Functioning of the Committee

1. The Committee shall elect its Bureau for a period of two years. Members of the Bureau may be re-elected for a further two-year period.
2. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure, which shall stipulate the following, inter alia:
 - Eight members shall constitute a quorum;
 - Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by a majority of members present and voting.
3. The Committee shall normally meet annually for a period not exceeding two weeks to evaluate reports submitted in compliance with article 26 of this Convention.
4. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the personnel and services necessary for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under this Convention.
5. Considering the importance of the functions of the Committee and subject to prior approval of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the members of the Committee shall receive emoluments from United Nations funds in a manner and under conditions to be determined by the Assembly.

Article 26**Reports of States parties**

1. States parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or any other measures they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of this Convention.
2. Reports submitted by States parties must specify progress achieved and difficulties affecting fulfilment of their obligations under the present Convention. They must likewise contain sufficient information on difficulties encountered in its implementation.
3. States parties shall submit their reports for consideration by the Committee:
within one year following the entry into force of this Convention for the State party in question;
thereafter, every year or whenever requested by the Committee.
4. In their periodic reports, States parties undertake to include a chapter on the situation of children, women and older persons with disabilities and on the steps taken to deal with their particular situation, including special measures to provide them with equal access to education and employment, health services and social security and to ensure their participation in all areas of economic, social and cultural life.

Article 27**Amendments**

1. Any State party to this Convention may propose an amendment and deposit it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The procedure to be followed in such cases shall be the following:
 - (a) The Secretary-General shall inform States parties of the proposed amendment, asking them to notify him should they wish to convene a Conference of States parties to examine the proposal and put it to a vote.
 - (b) If within four months following the date of such notification, at least one third of the States parties declare themselves in favour of convening such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene an amendment conference under the auspices of the United Nations.
 - (c) Any amendment adopted by a majority of the States parties present and voting at the conference shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly of the United Nations for approval.
 - (d) Any amendment adopted shall enter into force once it has been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a two-thirds majority of the States parties.
 - (e) When amendments enter into force, they shall be binding on the States parties that accepted them, while the other States parties shall remain bound by the provisions of this Convention and any previous amendments they have accepted.
2. States not parties to this Convention, as well as the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and other competent organs, shall be entitled to be

invited to attend the amendment conference as observers, in accordance with the agreed rules of procedure.

Article 28
Publicity

Each State party undertakes to disseminate this Convention widely and to publicize it.

Article 29
Depositary

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is hereby designated depositary of this Convention.
2. This Convention shall be open for signature by all United Nations Member States.
3. This Convention shall be open for ratification or accession by all United Nations Member States.
4. Instruments of signature, accession or ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 30
Entry into force

This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date on which the tenth instrument of ratification or accession has been deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 31
Distribution

1. This Convention, whose texts in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.
 2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall send certified copies of this Convention to all States parties.
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