

Government Implementation of the Standard Rules As Seen By Member Organizations of Rehabilitation International - RI

The Institute on Independent Living wishes to express gratitude to Bengt Lindqvist, UN Special Rapporteur, and Dimitris Michailakis, for their kind permission to print the previously un-published RI reply to the Implementation of the Standard Rules.

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Industrialized countries

Rehabilitation International, Denmark
Rehabilitation Foundation, Finland
Hellenic Society for Disabled Children, Greece
The Organization of Handicapped in Iceland and the National Federation for the Aid of the Handicapped, Iceland
National Rehabilitation Board, Ireland
Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, and the Japan Association for Employment of the Disabled, Japan

Middle East and North Africa

Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, Kuwait

Countries in transition

Association of Disabled Persons in the Czech Republic, RI, Czech Republic
Institut Republike Slovenije za Rehabilitacijo, Slovenia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Rehabilitation International, Argentina
Asociacion Dominicana de Rehabilitation, RI, Dominican Republic

South, East Asia and the Pacific

Rehabilitation International, Hong Kong
Malaysian Leprosy Relief Association, Malaysia
National Council of Social Service, Singapore
National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, Thailand

Introduction

This report analyses the replies to the questionnaire sent not only to the governments of the UN Member States, but also to 600 national NGOs within the disability field. The number of responses from the NGOs was not as high as from the governments of Member States. However, it represents a very interesting material. In this report I will separate, among the total of 163 replies from NGOs, the 15 replies from Rehabilitation International (RI).

Part I of this report presents and analyses the results from the NGOs belonging to RI, which have answered the questionnaire. Each table corresponds to a specific question in the questionnaire (the number of the question is marked). For each question, after the presentation of the results, comparisons are made between a) the results from the organization in question and the results from the total of NGOs responding to the questionnaire, and b) the results from the organization in question and the replies from the governments. In this way we can locate issues where convergence, or divergence, of views exists, between the particular NGOs and all the NGOs having responded to the questionnaire, and between the particular NGOs and the governments.

The information in Part II is presented in a rather detailed form, in order to expose the collected data of the responding NGOs.

The decision to send the questionnaire, not only to governments of the Member States, but also to NGOs of these states within the disability field, proved to be worthwhile. The different perspectives and views indicate a more complex picture of the degree of achievement each country as to the implementing of the Standard Rules. When the government and one, or many, NGOs give the same answers there is a guarantee for the reliability of the received data, but when, on the other hand, the answers differ many questions arise. For instance: Who knows what about whom? Does the organization for the blind know the conditions for the mentally disabled? Is there a trend that governments give an idealizing description, while NGOs give a pessimistic one? The comparisons in this report are not aiming at indicating the greatest possible differences, but to find out the greatest possible achievements with the standards, set out by the Rules. Yet, attention has to be paid to cases where the answers from one and the same country

are not concordant. For several questions, the difference between the percentages reported by RI organizations and governments, is ten percent or more. What do such differences tell us?

The answers differ, now and then, on specific details on very essential issues, like what kind of services that are available, and what persons with disabilities are entitled to. That the answers differ, on issues such as the role of the co-ordinating committee, is rather evident, since it is a question of assessing, of evaluating a process between two or more parties. But in case of divergent answers about social and economic rights questions arise. Is there an information gap even among the most prominent spokesmen for persons with disabilities? Do organizations have too small resources in order to keep themselves well-informed? Or do the disability organizations work rather separately from each other; concentrating on their own, specific disability group, due to the complexity of the matter, that is ¥disability¥ is it a too big an issue to keep record of?

The divergence is of course in many cases the result of a different perspective due to different roles: The government is the actor implementing policies within a wide range of issues, while NGOís are expert actors in a specific field, who therefore very well know what is happening in a limited area. The answer from the NGO`s can thus sometimes be the verification, or falsification, of the answer from the government. The government answer giving a more optimistic view than the answer from the NGOís could depend on the fact that - being the responsible part for the implementation of policies, conventions and rules such as the Standard Rules - the government wants to demonstrate that it has carried out its obligations.

By elaborating the specific replies of different NGOís, comparing the answers with the NGOís as a whole - a rather common procedure - and with the governments, one trait has emerged, rather unexpectedly: that specific NGOís diverge on one or many issues with the NGOís in general but converge with the answer from the government. In order to explain this, and other interesting findings, further monitoring is needed.

Distribution of NGOs belonging to RI according to regions

Regions	Frequency	Percent
South, East Asia and the Pacific	4	26,7
Industrialized countries	6	40,0
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	13,3
The Middle East and North Africa	1	6,7
Sub-Saharan Africa	0	0,0
Countries in transition	2	13,3
Total	15	100,0

The region with most respondents among RI organizations is the one of industrialized countries. No replies were received from RI organisations from Sub-Saharan Africa.

General Policy

Table 1 (Question No. 1)
Number of RI organizations reporting an officially recognized disability policy:

Disability policy expressed in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Having an officially recognized policy	12	92,3
Not having an officially recognized policy	1	7,7
Law	8	61,5
Guidelines adopted by the Government	7	53,8
Guidelines adopted by a disability council	7	53,8
Policy adopted by political parties	4	30,8
Policy adopted by NGO's	6	46,2

Total 13, No answer 2

As Table 1 shows the majority of RI organizations are reporting that there is an officially recognized disability policy. The majority of RI organizations are reporting that the disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines, adopted by the government. The replies from the NGOs generally exhibit the same pattern. There are no clear differences regarding the percentages, except for the guidelines adopted by the National Disability Council, the percentages reported by RI organizations being higher when compared with the percent reported by NGOs in general. There are great differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. RI organizations report a lower percentage regarding the disability policy expressed in law, but a higher percentage regarding the policy expressed in guidelines adopted by a disability council, the policy adopted by political parties and the policy adopted by NGOs.

Table 2 (Question No. 2)
The emphasis of disability policy

Emphasis in national policy	Number of RI org. indicating respective emphasis				
	1	2	3	4	5
Prevention	2	1	3	3	2
Rehabilitation	4	6	2	-	-
Individual support	6	1	1	3	-
Accessibility measures	-	3	6	3	-
Anti-discrimination law	-	1	-	2	6

1 = very strong emphasis, 5 = very weak emphasis

According to RI organizations, the strongest emphasis is on rehabilitation, while the weakest emphasis is on anti-discrimination law and accessibility measures. The same pattern prevails as with the NGOs in general. The same pattern also emerges, when compared with government responses.

Table 3 (Question No. 3)
Government action to convey the message of full participation

Conveying the message of full participation	Frequency	Valid Percent
RI organizations reporting Gvt. action	7	58,3
RI organizations reporting no Gvt. action	5	41,7

Total 12, No answer 3

As Table 3 shows, almost 42% of the organizations are reporting that the governments have not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation, since the adoption of the Rules. More RI organizations report a government action than NGOs generally do. There are clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. RI organizations report a lower percentage regarding government action for conveying the message of full participation than the governments themselves.

Legislation

Table 4 (Question No. 4)

Types of legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities

Types of legislation	Frequency	Valid Percent
Special legislation	1	6,7
General legislation	6	40,0
Special and general legislation	8	53,3

Total 15, No answer 0

As Table 4 shows, the most common type of legislation, according to RI organizations is to use a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The second most frequent type of legislation is general legislation, applicable to all citizens, while the least common type is special legislation, specifically referring to disabled persons' rights. There is, however, a high percentage of countries, where the rights of persons with disabilities are protected only by general legislation. Though the pattern is the same compared with the NGOs in general, there is a clear difference regarding the percentage of countries having only special legislation. The valid percentage for the NGOs in general is 23,6%. There are clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. RI organizations report a higher percentage concerning countries using only general legislation and a lower percentage for countries using a combination of special and general legislation.

Table 5 (Question No. 5)

Mechanisms to protect citizenship rights

Judicial/no-judicial mechanisms	Frequency	Valid Percent
Due process	7	58,3
Recourse procedure	3	25,0
Ombudsman	4	33,3
Governmental body (administrative)	10	83,3
Expert bodies	3	25,0
Arbitration/conciliation body	2	16,7

Total 12, No answer 3

As Table 5 shows, the majority of RI organizations are reporting that mechanisms have been adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The most frequent judicial mechanism adopted is legal remedy through the courts, while the most frequent non-judicial mechanism is a governmental body (administrative). There is a clear difference, compared with the NGOs in general, as regards the percentage of countries reporting due process and a governmental body (administrative). The percentages reported by RI organizations concerning due process are lower but the percentage concerning the existence of a governmental body (administrative) is much higher than the percentage reported by NGOs in general. There are also clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. RI organizations report a lower

percentage of countries, where disabled persons can defend their rights through courts, but a higher percentage of countries using recourse procedure by a special agency as well as a government body (administrative), than the governments.

Table 6 (Question 6)
Civil and political rights of persons with disabilities

RI organizations reporting that general legislation does not apply with respect to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Education	0	00,0
Employment	0	00,0
The right to marriage	4	30,8
The right to parenthood/family	4	30,8
Political rights	3	23,1
Access to court-of-law	4	30,8
Right to privacy	4	30,8
Property rights	4	30,8

Total 13, No answer 2

As Table 6 shows, there is a considerable number of RI organizations reporting that general legislation does not apply to persons with disabilities with respect to: the right to marriage; parenthood/family; political rights; access to court-of-law; the right to privacy and property rights. General legislation is in all countries applicable with respect to the right to education and the right to employment. It is interesting to note that general legislation applies with respect to the right of employment in all countries. The same pattern prevails as with the NGOs in general, but with differences in the percentages reported, concerning the right to parenthood/family and political rights where the percentages reported by RI organizations are lower than the NGOs in general. When compared with the percentages reported by governments there are clear differences only regarding two of the rights listed above, namely the right to education and the right to employment. The governments do not have as low a percentage as the RI organizations (0%).

Table 7 (Question No. 7)
Economic and social rights of persons with disabilities

RI organizations reporting that the following benefits are not guaranteed by law:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Health/medical care	5	33,3
Rehabilitation	3	20,0
Financial security	5	33,3
Employment	9	60,0
Independent living	10	66,7
Participation in decisions affecting themselves	9	60,0

Total 15, No answer 0

According to RI organizations, the following rights are less often guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: independent living; employment and participation in decisions affecting themselves. The right most frequently guaranteed by law is the right to rehabilitation. Regarding

the right to employment, it is interesting to make a comparison with question no. 6, enabling an inference that general legislation is not a sufficient guarantee for disabled persons' rights. For instance, though there are no legal hindrances for disabled persons in any of the countries with regard to the right to employment, only in 40% of the countries this right is guaranteed by law. Obviously, this makes a difference. Compared with the NGOs in general, there are no clear differences, except regarding the right to financial security. The percentage reported by the NGOs in general is 60%, to be compared with the 33%, reported by RI organizations. There are clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. RI organizations report a higher percentage of countries where the following benefits are not guaranteed by law: health/medical care, employment, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

Table 8 (Question No. 8)
New legislation concerning disability since the adoption of the Rules

Legislation on disability	Frequency	Valid Percent
RI reporting enactment of new legislation	7	50,0
RI reporting no enactment of new legislation	7	50,0

Total 14, No answer 1

As Table 8 shows, 50% of RI organizations are reporting that no new legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules. There are clear differences, compared with the percentages reported by the NGOs in general, the enactment of new legislation reported being 37%. There are no clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments.

Accessibility

Table 9 (Question No. 9)
Regulations to ensure accessibility in the built environment

RI organizations reporting that:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Accessibility standards exist	15	100,0
Accessibility standards do not exist	0	0,0

Total 15, No answer 0

As Table 9 indicates, none of the RI organizations are reporting that no accessibility standards exist. The same pattern prevails as with the NGOs in general though there are clear differences in the percentages. The percentage reported by NGOs in general, regarding the existence of accessibility standards, is 67%. There are also clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. RI organizations report a higher percentage of countries where accessibility standards exist.

Table 10 (Question No. 10)
Accessibility of the built environment

RI organizations reporting accessibility in:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Public places	15	100,0
Outdoor environment	10	66,7
Transportation	7	46,7
Housing	8	53,3

Total 15, No answer 0

As Table 10 indicates, all the RI organizations are reporting that accessibility standards concerning public places exist, but that accessibility standards concerning means of public transportation exist to a lesser extent. The same pattern, with the NGOs in general, with no clear differences in the percentages reported. There are, however, clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. RI organizations report a lower percentage regarding accessibility standards in the outdoor environment and in transportation, than the government.

Table 11 (Question No. 11)
Supervision of the accessibility in the built environment

Accessibility in the built environment is observed by:	Frequency	Valid Percent
National authority	9	60,0
Local Governments	8	53,3
The constructor	2	13,3
The organizers/providers of the activities	4	26,7
No responsible body exists	1	6,7

Total 15, No answer 0

As Table 11 shows, 7% of RI organizations are reporting that no responsible body exists to observe the accessibility in the built environment. Accessibility in the built environment, when existing, is most frequently observed by a national authority and by local governments. The same pattern prevails in replies compared with the NGOs in general. There are, however, clear differences in percentages reported. RI organizations report a higher percentage regarding supervision by a national authority and by the organizers/providers of the activities, but a lower percentage regarding the existence of a responsible body. When compared with the percentages reported by governments, there are differences concerning the supervision of the accessibility in the built environment by the organizers/providers of the activities, RI organizations reporting a higher percentage regarding the existence of a responsible body and fewer RI organizations reporting that such a body does not exist.

Table 12 (Question No. 12)
Measures to facilitate accessibility of the built environment

Government measures promoted:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Levelling off pavements	12	80,0
Marking parking areas	13	86,7
Installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets	12	80,0
Ensure accessibility in public places	12	80,0
Improving accessibility in housing	8	53,3
Financial incentives/support for accessibility measures	7	46,7
Special lighting/contrast colours for visually impaired	5	33,3
Provision of specially adapted motor vehicles	9	60,0

Total 15, No answer 0

According to RI organizations, the following measures to facilitate accessibility in the built environment are the most frequently promoted: marking parking areas, levelling off pavements, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets and ensuring accessibility in public places. The measure being the least of all promoted is special lighting/contrast colours for visually impaired. There are great differences in the percentage reported, when compared with the NGOs in general. RI organizations report a higher percentage regarding all the listed measures. There are also clear differences in almost all of the above mentioned measures, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. RI organizations report a higher percentage on the following measures: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring accessibility in public places, improving accessibility in housing and providing specially adapted motor vehicles.

Table 13 (Question No. 13)
Special transport system

Special transport is available for:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Medical treatment	12	92,3
Education	12	92,3
Work	9	69,2
Recreational purpose	12	92,3
No special transport system exists	2	13,3
Special transport exists	13	86,7

Total 15, No answer 0

There are 13% of the RI organizations reporting that no special transport system exists. When a special legislation exists, it is available, in most countries, for education and medical treatment. There are clear differences in the percentages, when compared with the NGOs in general, regarding the existence of special transport system. The percentage reported by the NGOs is higher. When compared with the percentages reported by governments, there are clear differences. RI organizations report a lower percentage for the availability of special transport for work but a higher one for recreational purpose. The RI organizations also report a higher percentage of countries, where special transport exist.

Table 14 (Question No. 14)

Adaptation of the built environment

Obstacles reported by RI when building accessible environments:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Attitudinal factors	12	80,0
Economic/budgetary factors	11	73,3
Technical factors	0	0,0
Geographical and climatic factors	1	6,7
Lack of legislation and regulations	2	13,3
Lack of planning and design capacity	5	33,3
Lack of knowledge, research and information	3	20,0
Lack of user participation	4	26,7
Lack of co-operation from other organizations	4	26,7
Lack of enforcement mechanism	11	73,3

Total 15, No answer 0

As Table 14 shows, there are three main obstacles according to RI organizations, when building accessible environments, namely attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors and lack of enforcement mechanism. It is remarkable that 80% of the RI organizations are reporting attitudinal factors as the main obstacle when building accessible environments. There are clear differences compared with the NGOs in general. RI organizations are reporting a higher percentage regarding attitudinal factors and lack of enforcement mechanism but a lower percentage regarding lack of legislation and regulations, and lack of knowledge, research and information. There are differences in the percentages reported by governments in almost all of the above mentioned obstacles. RI organizations report a higher percentage concerning the following obstacles: attitudinal factors, lack of user participation, lack of enforcement mechanism, a lower percentage concerning technical factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of legislation and regulations and lack of knowledge, research and information.

Table 15 (Question No. 15)
Disability awareness component

Disability awareness in the training:	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a disability awareness component	7	53,8
There is not a disability awareness component	6	46,2

Total 13, No answer 2

The majority of RI organizations are reporting that a disability awareness component is incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. There is a different pattern compared with the NGOs in general. There are also clear differences in the percentage reported. There are no clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments.

Table 16 (Question No. 16)
Status of sign language

The status of sign language as reported by RI organizations:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Recognized as the official language	6	42,9
As the first language in education	2	14,3
As the main means of communication	3	21,4
No officially recognized status	3	21,4

Total 14, No answer 1

As Table 16 indicates, 21% of RI organizations are reporting that sign language has no officially recognized status, while also 43% of the RI organizations are reporting that sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people. There is no clear difference, compared with the NGOs in general. There are clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. The RI organizations report a higher percentage of countries, where sign language has an officially recognized status, but a lower percentage of countries, where sign language has no officially recognized status.

Table 17 (Question No. 17)
Accessibility measures in media

Accessibility measures in media	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting accessibility measures	10	66,7
Reporting no accessibility measures	5	33,3

Total 15, No answer 0

As Table 17 shows, the majority of the RI organizations are reporting that there are accessibility measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities. The percentage reported here, regarding the existence of accessibility measures, is higher compared with the percentage reported by the NGOs in general. When compared with the percentages reported by governments, the RI organizations report a higher percentage of countries that have taken measures to encourage accessibility measures in media.

Table 18 (Question No. 18)
Accessibility measures in public information services

Public information services	Frequency	Valid Percent
Accessibility measures in information	7	58,3
No accessibility measures in information	5	41,7

Total 12, No answer 3

The majority of the RI organizations are also reporting that there are government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible for persons with disabilities. A clear difference appears compared with the percentage reported by the NGOs in general. There are no clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by the governments.

Table 19 (Question No. 19)
Access to information and communication

Services to facilitate information/communication	Frequency	Valid Percent
Literature in Braille/tape	13	92,9
News magazines on tape/Braille	7	50,0
Sign language interpretation for any purpose	8	57,1
Sign language interpretation for major events	5	35,7
Easy readers for persons with mental disabilities	3	21,4
None	0	0,00

Total 14, No answer 1

As Table 19 indicates, none of the RI organizations report there being no services at all to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and persons without. This is a clear difference with the percentage reported by NGOs in general. The services most frequently provided, according to the RI organizations are literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation for any purpose, whereas less frequently services such as easy readers for persons with disabilities are provided. The main difference appearing here, is that RI organizations are reporting a higher percentage regarding the provision of literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation for any purpose than NGOs in general. There are clear differences regarding two of the above listed services, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. The RI organizations report a higher percentage of countries, where sign language interpretation is provided for any purpose, but a lower percentage concerning easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of Persons With Disabilities

Table 20 (Question No. 20)
National umbrella organization

National umbrella organization	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a umbrella organization	11	73,3
There is no umbrella organization	4	26,7

Total 15, No answer 0

As Table 20 shows, the majority of the RI organizations are reporting that there is an umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities. Minor differences appear in the percentage reported, compared with those reported by the NGOs in general. There are no clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments.

Table 21 (Question 21)
Participation in policy making

Participation in policy-making	Frequency	Valid Percent
RI organizations reporting participation	7	46,7
RI organizations reporting no participation	8	53,3

Total 15, No answer 0

As Table 21 shows, 53% of the RI organizations are reporting that no legal provisions exist mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to

work with governmental institutions. There are only minor differences, compared with the percentage reported by the NGOs in general. There are clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. The RI organizations report a lower percentage regarding participation in policy-making.

Table 22 (Question 22)

Consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities

Organizations are consulted:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	0	0,0
Sometimes	3	20,0
Often	6	40,0
Always	6	40,0

Total 15, No answer 0

Table 22 shows that a majority of the organizations reports that consultations often/always take place, while the percentage is 0 for the RI organizations reporting that consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities never take place when laws, regulations and/or guidelines with a disability aspect are being prepared. There are main differences in the percentages compared with NGOs in general. The RI organizations are reporting a higher percentage when consultations are often and always taking place. There are clear differences in the percentages reported by governments. The RI organizations report a higher percentage when consultations often take place.

Table 23 (Question 23)

Level of consultations

Level of consultations	Frequency	Valid Percent
National	15	100,0
Regional	8	53,3
Local	8	53,3

Total 15, No answer 0

Table 23 shows that consultations, when taking place always occur at the national level. Great differences appear in the percentage reported concerning the regional and local levels, when compared with the NGO's in general. The percentage reported by NGOs in general are lower. There are clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by the governments. The RI organizations report a higher percentage concerning consultations on the national and regional level.

Table 24 (Question 24)

Support to organizations of disabled people

Kind of support	Frequency	Valid Percent
Financial	12	92,3
Organizational/logistic	2	15,4
No support at all	0	0,0

Total 13, No answer 2

The majority of the RI organizations are reporting that the government gives financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities. There are no RI organizations reporting that no

support at all is given to organizations of persons with disabilities. None of the RI organizations report that support is not given to organizations of persons with disabilities. The pattern is the same, but there are differences, when compared with the percentage reported by the NGOs in general, namely regarding financial and organizational/logistic support, the RI organizations report higher percentages for the former and lower for the later. There are clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by the governments. The RI organizations report higher percentages concerning financial support but lower ones concerning organizational/logistic support.

Table 25 (Question 25)
Participation in political and public life

Areas of political and public life	Number of countries reporting participation		
	Limited	Some	Great
Government	6	5	4
Legislatures	5	3	5
Judiciary	9	3	0
Political parties	6	6	0
NGO's	1	2	12

1 and 2 = limited extent
3 = some extent
4 and 5 = great extent

Table 25 shows, that the majority of the RI organizations are reporting that persons with disabilities to a very limited extent participate in government, legislatures, judicial authorities and political parties, but to a great extent in NGOs. The same pattern prevails as that reported by the NGOs in general; no significant difference in the percentage. The same pattern emerges when compared with the responses from the governments.

Table 26 (Question 26)
The role of organizations

Areas in which organizations are involved	Frequency	Valid Percent
Advocating rights and improved services	14	93,3
Mobilize persons with disabilities	12	80,0
Identify needs and priorities	10	66,7
Participate in the planning, implementation	10	66,7
Contribute to public awareness	14	93,3
Provide services	14	93,3
Promote/organize income generating activities	10	66,7

Total 15, No answer 0

Table 26 shows, that according to the RI organizations, the organizations for persons with disabilities are foremost involved in: advocating rights and improved services, contributing to public awareness, providing services and mobilizing persons with disabilities. The RI organizations are reporting that the areas, in which these organizations are least involved, is: identifying needs and priorities, participating in the planning, implementing and evaluating services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, and promoting/organizing income generating activities. Nonetheless, the rates in all areas concerning

organizations, the involvement are high implying that this group of NGOs apprehend their role to involve in a wide range of tasks. The pattern is the same as with NGOs in general. Although there are differences in the percentage reported concerning the role of organizations to identify needs and priorities and to promote/organize income generating activities. The percentages reported by the RI organizations concerning the former is lower, but concerning the latter higher. There are clear differences in two areas, when the percentages reported by governments are compared to those reported by the RI organizations. The RI organizations report a lower percentage regarding involvement to identify needs and priorities but a higher percentage concerning provision of services.

Co-ordination of Work

Table 27 (Question 27)
Co-ordinating committee

Co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
There is a co-ordinating committee	12	85,7
There is no co-ordinating committee	2	14,3

Total 14, No answer 1

Table 27 shows that the majority of the RI organizations are reporting the existence of a co-ordinating committee. Only 14% are reporting that there is no committee. There are differences in the percentage reported, when compared with NGOs in general. The RI organizations are reporting a higher percentage regarding the existence of a co-ordinating committee. The same pattern prevails when compared to governments. The RI organizations report a higher percentage of countries with a co-ordinating committee than the governments.

Table 28 (Question 28)
Where the co-ordinating committee is reporting

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to:	Frequency	Valid Percent
A particular Ministry	7	58,3
The Prime Minister's office	3	25,0
Other	2	16,7
There is no co-ordinating committee	2	14,3

Total 14, No answer 1

According to the RI organizations, the authority to which the co-ordinating committee is usually reporting, is the Ministry of Social Affairs or any other Ministry. There are differences in the percentage reported, when compared with NGOs in general. The RI organizations report a lower percentage regarding reports to Ministries and higher regarding reports to the Prime Minister's office. There is a clear difference in the percentages reported, when compared with governments. The RI organizations report a lower percentage regarding co-ordinating committees' reports to a particular Ministry.

Table 29 (Question 29)
Representation in the co-ordinating committee

Representatives of:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Ministries	12	100,0
Organizations of persons with disabilities	10	83,3
Other NGO's	7	58,3
Private sector	5	41,7
There is no co-ordinating committee	2	14,3

Total 14, No answer 1

According to the RI organizations, the co-ordinating committee usually includes representatives from Ministries and from organizations of persons with disabilities. Representatives from other NGOs and from the private sector are not so often included in the co-ordinating committee. The same pattern prevails, when compared with the NGOs in general, but there are differences in the percentage reported concerning the representation of other NGOs and from the private sector. There is only one difference, when compared with the percentages reported by governments. The RI organizations report a higher percentage concerning the representation of Ministries in the co-ordinating committees.

Table 30 (Question 30)
Participation in policy-development

Involvement of the co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Participation in policy development	10	90,9
No participation in policy-development	1	9,1
There is no co-ordinating committee	2	14,3

Total 13, No answer 2

Table 30 shows that 91% of the RI organizations are reporting that the co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in policy development. There are only minor differences in the percentage reported, when compared with those reported by the NGOs in general. There are no clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by the governments.

Table 31 (Question 31)
Participation in performance of other tasks

Involvement of the co-ordinating committee	Frequency	Valid Percent
Reporting performance of other tasks	6	50,0
Reporting no performance of other tasks	6	50,0
There is no co-ordinating committee	2	14,3

Total 14, No answer 1

50% of the NGOs are reporting that the committee is expected to perform other tasks. The percentage reported by the NGOs in general is 57. There are clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by the governments concerning involvement of the co-ordinating committees in other tasks. The RI organizations report considerably lower percentage.

Table 32 (Question 32)
Effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee

Effects	Frequency	Valid Percent
Improved co-ordination of programmes	10	83,3
Improved legislation	9	75,0
Improved integration of responsibility	7	58,3
Better dialogue in the disability field	10	83,3
More accurate planning	8	66,7
More effective use of resources	5	41,7
Improved promotion of public awareness	8	66,7
Too early for assessment	1	8,3
There is no co-ordinating committee	2	14,3

Total 14, No answer 1

According to the RI organizations, the establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of programmes and a better dialogue in the disability field. 8% of the RI organizations report that it is too early for an assessment regarding the effects of the co-ordinating committee. There are differences in the percentage reported, when compared with NGOs in general for all the effects listed above. There are clear differences, when compared with the percentages reported by the governments. The RI organizations report a higher percentage concerning the involvement of the co-ordinating committees in improvement of legislation and in the more accurate planning but a lower percentage regarding the more effective use of resources.

Table 33 (Question 33)
Effects of the adoption of the Standard Rules

The effects of the Standard Rules	Frequency	Valid Percent
RI organizations reporting rethinking	7	58,3
RI organizations reporting no rethinking	4	33,3

Total 12, No answer 3

Table 33 shows that 58% of the RI organizations are reporting that the adoption of the Standard Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy whereas 33% are reporting that it has not lead to a rethinking. The percentage reported by the RI organizations on the issue that the adoption of the Standard Rules has not led to a rethinking is much lower than that reported by the NGOs in general. There is a considerably lower percentage of RI organizations reporting a rethinking as an effect of the adoption of the Standard Rules than from the governments.

Conclusion

There are four questions in which a broad convergence of views exists between RI organizations, the NGOs in general and the governments, namely questions No 2, 20, 25 and 30. In none of the issues explored in these questions are there any divergent views between RI organizations, NGOs in general and governments.

There are a number of areas, where divergent views exist between RI organizations and governments. It is interesting to observe that the divergence in views is higher between RI organizations and NGOs in general than between RI organizations and governments.

There are also a number of areas, where divergent views exist between RI organizations, NGOs

in general and governments. Divergence does not occur over the whole range of issues in these areas, but in most of them. The areas, where the divergence in views is most apparent, include the civil and political rights of persons with disabilities, the economic and social rights of persons with disabilities, the measures taken by the governments in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment, the obstacles reported to facilitate accessibility in the built environment, the participation in political and public life, the effects of the establishment of the co-ordinating committee and the effects of the adoption of the Standard Rules.

Industrialized countries

Rehabilitation International, Denmark

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. According to the Government, disability policy is not expressed in law but in guidelines, adopted by the Government. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, individual support and accessibility measures.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules, the government has done nothing to convey the message of full participation. According to the Government, the following measures have been taken to convey the message of full participation: The Minister of Social Affairs has held a press meeting, in December 1994, the national council on disability has distributed material concerning the Standard Rules and an interministerial committee has been appointed in order to work out a plan of action, concerning accessibility and awareness raising.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is recourse procedure by a special agency, dealing with anti-discrimination issues. Non-judicial mechanisms include: an Ombudsman, and a governmental body (administrative). According to the Government, the judicial mechanisms include due process (legal remedy through the courts), the non-judicial including an ombudsman and an independent expert body.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, the right to privacy and to property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government, the benefits of employment and participation in decisions affecting themselves are not guaranteed by law.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure the accessibility in the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transportation and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. The Government states that accessibility in the built environment is also observed by a national authority. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities, available for medical treatment, education, work and recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design-capacity and lack of enforcement mechanism.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. According to the Government, sign language for deaf people is also recognized as the official language for deaf people and is used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. According to the Government, there are no measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, sign language interpretation, being available for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization, The Danish Council of Organizations of Disabled People, with 27 member organizations, covering all groups of disabled people. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local level. The government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties, but to a great extent in NGO's. The Government did not provide any answer concerning the extent of participation of persons with disabilities. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities and contribute to public awareness. According to the Government, organizations also provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Parliament. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, as well as Education and of organizations of persons with disabilities. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. According to the Government, the council is also expected to perform other tasks. The establishment of the committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field and more accurate planning. The establishment of the committee has not led to a more

effective use of resources or improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy. According to the Government, the adoption of the Rules has provided a new instrument to carry out the disability policy.

Rehabilitation Foundation, Finland

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Finland is, according to the Rehabilitation Foundation, expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by a National Disability Council. According to the Government, the disability policy is also expressed in policy adopted by political parties and by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination law and prevention.

Since the adoption of the Standard Rules, the government has not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns, conveying the message of full participation. The Government states that the National Council on Disability, in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, has published an easy reader version of the Standard Rules in Finnish and Swedish.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation, applicable to all citizens. According to the Government, the rights of disabled people are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts), while administrative and other non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman and a governmental body (administrative).

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court-of-law, the right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling and financial security. According to the Government, even the benefits of independent living and of participation in decisions affecting themselves are guaranteed by law.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Standard Rules. The Government states that, since the adoption of the Rules, the Constitution has been amended (1995). The clause on equality was included in the Constitution Act (section 5 §2) and the clause (section 14 §3) according to persons using sign language and persons in need of interpretation and translation services because of disability, will be protected by law.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and land, sea and air transportation are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts

and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for the costs of adapting private buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government, even special lighting and contrast colours for visually impaired are provided. The special transport arrangements include low floor buses. This special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation and lack of enforcement mechanism. A disability awareness component is not incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. According to the Government, there is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers, but the issue, whether this is taken into account, depends on the professors at the Architectural Universities.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people and is used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are government measures to encourage media (The Broadcasting Corporation) to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following measures are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation being available for any purpose. A sign language news bulletin is also being provided on television. According to the Government, even easy readers for persons with mental disabilities are provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization in which practically all organizations are represented. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, there are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Disability organizations are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local levels. The government financially supports the existing and new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in legislatures and judiciary, to some extent in government and political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The role of disabled persons' organizations is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize needs and priorities, contribute to public awareness and to provide services. According to the Government, organizations also participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning disabled persons.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Health and Social Security. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, of Employment, of Transport, of Housing, of Education, of Culture and of Planning, and of other NGOs. The co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in the planning and policy development. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes in the disability field, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Standard Rules has not yet led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Hellenic Society for Disabled Children, Greece

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. In addition, Article 21 of the Constitution makes reference to disability and constitutes a mandate for legislative and administrative action. The emphasis in this policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the following has been made in order to convey the message of full participation: relevant spots on T.V. and various events relating to the International Day of Disabled Persons. A recent Law (1995) prescribes T.V. and radio time to be allocated to awareness raising messages. Proposed legislation recognizes the International Day of the Disabled.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). The non-judicial mechanism is a governmental body (administrative).

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court of law, the right to privacy and to property rights. However, the right of privacy is constrained by accessibility barriers and the resultant overprotection/dependency. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling and financial security. According to the Government, even the benefits of employment, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves are guaranteed by law.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the Law for raising time in the mass media has been enacted as well as a special law, dealing with the conditions and overseeing the mechanisms for the provision of organized welfare services, some of which apply to facilities and services for disabled persons.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places and the outdoor environment are made accessible. According to the Government, there are rules to ensure the accessibility in the means of public transportation. No responsible body exists to ensure accessibility in the built environment. The following measures have been promoted to ensure accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport arrangements include accessible buses, urban transportation being free for commuters, and discounts, existing for long distance travel. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism. The Government does not regard economic/budgetary factors as an obstacle for building accessible environments. There is no disability awareness component

incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language in education of deaf people and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible to persons with disabilities, but no government measures to encourage other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation being available for major events only.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local level. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in government, political parties and NGOs. The role of organisations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body.

The Standard rules have been helpful when organizing new services and are taken into account when preparing new legislation. The Rules have certainly strengthened demands of the organizations concerned.

National Rehabilitation Board, Iceland

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on individual support, accessibility measures, rehabilitation, prevention and anti-discrimination law.

In order to convey the message of full participation the Ministry of Social Affairs has translated the Rules to Icelandic.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is recourse procedure by a special agency, dealing with anti-discrimination issues. The non-judicial mechanism is a government body (administrative). According to the

Government, no judicial mechanisms have been adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, but there is an Ombudsman for that purpose.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education and employment. According to the Government general legislation also applies with respect to the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family and to political rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government, even the benefit of health and medical care is guaranteed by law.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, means of public transportation and housing are made accessible. According to the Government, there are no rules to ensure accessibility in the means of public transportation. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. The following measures have been promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special lighting for visually impaired has not been promoted. Special transport arrangements include specially adapted cars, run and controlled by the local authorities. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work, recreational purpose. According to the Government special transport is not available for medical treatment or for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design-capacity and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, but is used as the official language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible to persons with disabilities, but no government measures to make other forms of public information services accessible to persons with disabilities. The government states that there are measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The only service provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons is sign language interpretation for major events. According to the Government, even literature in Braille/tape and news magazines on tape/Braille are provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national, regional and local level. The government gives financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, judicial authorities, political parties and to a great extent in legislatures and NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the

planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities. According to the Government, organizations do not advocate rights or improved services, nor do they promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Social Affairs, of Employment, and of Housing, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of local authorities and of the budget committee. According to the Government, the committee includes representatives from the Ministry of Finance only. The government expects the national co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness. It is too early for an assessment whether the establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

National Rehabilitation Board, Ireland

No reply was received from the Government of Ireland.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The following benefits are guaranteed, though only partially, by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling and financial security. No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places - only new buildings and major extensions in existing buildings - are made accessible. There are no standards requiring that the outdoor environment, means of public transportation or housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority, by local governments and by the constructor. No measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment. There are special transports for persons with disabilities, available for medical treatment and education. The most difficult factors, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language of deaf people and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation, being available for major

events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local level. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties and to a great extent in NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, contribute to public awareness and to provide services.

Co-ordination of work

There is no national co-ordinating committee or any similar body.

Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, and the Japan Association for Employment of the Disabled, Japan

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, in guidelines adopted by the national disability council, in policy adopted by political parties and in policy adopted by NGOs. According to the Government disability policy is not expressed in policy adopted by political parties or in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on individual support, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, prevention and anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has conveyed the message of full participation through education programmes and other action.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). The non-judicial mechanisms include: a governmental body (administrative), independent expert bodies and a special arbitration/conciliation body. According to the Government, there are no judicial mechanisms to protect the rights of persons with disabilities while the non-judicial including only a governmental body (administrative).

General legislation applies with respect to persons with different disabilities to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, the right to privacy and access to court of law and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, employment, financial security, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

New legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

- #. Enactment of Disabled Persons' Fundamental Law (1993/12).
- #. Enactment of the Act on Buildings Accessible and Usable for the Elderly and Physically Disabled (1994/4).
- #. Amendment to the Law Concerning Mental Health and Welfare for the Mentally Disabled (1995/7).

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transport and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority, by local governments and by the organizers/providers of services. The following measures have been promoted by the government to ensure accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial incentives/support for accessibility measures in housing, using contrast colours for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. In addition, measures such as providing traffic sound signals for persons with visual disability, laying embossed titles for persons with visual disability have also been promoted. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities, available for medical treatment, education, employment, for recreational purpose and personal purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors. The Government does not regard attitudinal factors to be an obstacle, when building accessible environments. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people. According to the Government, sign language is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities. According to the Government, easy readers for persons with mental disabilities are not provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Disability organisations are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national, regional and local level. The government gives financial and organizational/logistic support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to some extent in legislatures, judicial authorities and political parties and to a great extent in government and NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and to promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Health and Welfare and to the Prime Minister's office. It includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs, of the private sector and of scholars and experts.

The government expects the committee to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules, to a certain extent, has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Middle East and North Africa

Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, Kuwait

No reply was received from the Government of Kuwait.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in guidelines adopted by the national disability council and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, individual support and anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). The non-judicial mechanisms include a governmental body (administrative) and independent expert bodies.

General legislation applies with respect to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights and the right to privacy. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

No new legislation has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and means of public transport

are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. The only measures promoted in order to ensure accessibility in the built environment are marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, providing financial incentive/support for accessibility measures in housing and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. There are special transport arrangements available for medical treatment, education, and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people, is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Disability organizations are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in government, legislatures and NGOs. The role of organisations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and to promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. It includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs and from the private sector. The government does not expect the committee to participate in policy development or to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the rules has, to a certain extent, led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Countries in transition

Association of Disabled Persons in the Czech Republic, RI, Czech Republic

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in guidelines adopted by the national disability council and in policy adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures, individual support and anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). The non-judicial mechanisms include a governmental body (administrative) and independent expert bodies.

General legislation applies with respect to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights and the right to privacy. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

No new legislation has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and means of public transport are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. The only measures promoted in order to ensure accessibility in the built environment are marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, providing financial incentive/support for accessibility measures in housing and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. There are special transport arrangements available for medical treatment, education, and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors, geographical and climatic factors, lack of legislation and regulations, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is recognized as the official language of deaf people, is used as the first language in education of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille, sign language interpretation for any purpose and easy readers for persons with mental disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Disability organizations are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a great extent in government, legislatures and NGOs. The role of organisations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and to promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs. It includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs and from the private sector. The government does not expect the committee to participate in policy development or to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the rules has, to a certain extent, led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Institut Republike Slovenije za Rehabilitacijo, Slovenia

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law, in guidelines adopted by the government, in guidelines adopted by a national disability council, in policy adopted by political parties and in a national policy adopted by the parliament. According to the Government disability policy is not expressed in guidelines adopted by a national disability council or in policy adopted by political parties. The emphasis in this policy is on individual support, accessibility measures, rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law and prevention.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has not done anything to initiate or support information campaigns conveying the message of full participation. The Government states that it has initiated and supported information campaigns, conveying the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through courts). Administrative and other non-judicial bodies include an Ombudsman, a governmental body (administrative), and independent expert bodies. According to the Government there are no administrative or other non-judicial bodies available for that purpose.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court of law, the right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living, participation in decisions affecting themselves. According to the Government, the benefits of independent living and of participation in decisions affecting themselves are not guaranteed by law.

New legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules. According to the Government, no new legislation concerning disability has been enacted since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulations to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment and housing are made accessible. According to the Government, there are rules to ensure accessibility only for public places. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by the constructor and by the organizers/providers of the activity. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, providing financial support for accessibility measures in housing, installing special lighting for visually impaired and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. According to the Government, the only measures promoted to facilitate accessibility in the built environment are marking parking areas, installing automatic doors and installing special lighting for visually impaired. Special transport arrangements include free transport, special services and adapted buses. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. According to the Government, special transport is not available for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to built accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, technical factors, lack of planning and design-capacity, lack of knowledge, research and information, lack of user participation, lack of co-operation from other organizations/institutions and lack of enforcement mechanism. According to the Government, economic/budgetary factors is also a main obstacle for building accessible environments. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language for deaf people is recognized as the official language of deaf people and is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. According to the Government, sign language for deaf people is not recognized as the official language of deaf people, but used as the first language in education of deaf people. There are no government measures to encourage media to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities, but government measures to encourage other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities, e.g. informational services for the deaf and the blind. According to the Government, there are not even measures to encourage other forms of public information to make their services accessible. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation being available for any purpose. According to the Government, even easy readers for persons with mental disabilities are provided.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization in which 11 organizations are represented. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in

policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. According to the Government, there are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national, regional and local level. According to the Government, consultations occur only at the national level. The government financially supports existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judicial authorities, to some extent in political parties, and to a great extent in government, legislatures and NGOs. The role of disabled persons organizations is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

The adoption of the Rules has not yet led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Rehabilitation International, Argentina

No reply was received from the Government of Argentina.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by special legislation, applicable to all citizens. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is recourse procedure by a special agency, dealing with anti-discrimination issues. The non-judicial mechanisms include an ombudsman and a governmental body (administrative).

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court of law, the right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling.

No new legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transport and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority and by local governments. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing automatic doors and providing specially adapted motor vehicles. Special transport is available for medical treatment, education, work and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are no government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information services to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape and news magazines on tape/Braille.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at both the national, regional and local level. The government gives organizational/logistic support to organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judicial authorities and political parties, to some extent in government and legislatures and to a great extent in NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, and to contribute to public awareness. Organizations, however, do not mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures, provide services or promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Prime Minister's office. The committee includes representatives of many Ministries and of organizations of persons with disabilities. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to improved co-ordination of measures/programmes and a better dialogue in the disability field. It has not led to improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources or to improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has not led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Asociacion Dominicana de Rehabilitation, RI, Dominican Republic

No reply was received from the Government of the Dominican Republic.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in policy, adopted by NGOs. The emphasis in this policy is on prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures and individual support.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has not done anything to convey the message of full participation.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. There is no judicial mechanism to protect the rights of persons with

disabilities. However, there is a special body to defend the rights of persons with mental disabilities.

General legislation applies to persons with different disabilities with respect to education and employment. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling and employment.

New legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority. The following measures have been promoted by the government in order to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas and ensuring access to public places. There are no special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers. There are no government measures to encourage media or other forms of public information to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities are sometimes consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities, political parties and NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to mobilize persons with disabilities, provide services and to promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The committee includes representatives of Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGOs. The co-ordinating committee is expected to participate in policy development but not to perform other tasks. It is too early for an assessment about the effects of the co-ordinating committee.

The adoption of the Rules has led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

South, East Asia and the Pacific

Rehabilitation International, Hong Kong

No reply was received from the Government of Hong Kong.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines adopted by the government. The emphasis in this policy is on rehabilitation, anti-discrimination law, prevention and accessibility measures.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has conveyed the message of full participation, through education programmes and other action.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). The non-judicial mechanisms include: a governmental body (administrative), and a special arbitration/conciliation body (equal opportunities commission).

General legislation applies with respect to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, the right to privacy, access to court of law and property rights. No benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities.

New legislation concerning disability has been enacted, since the adoption of the Rules. (Disability Discrimination Ordinance and Amendments to the Mental Health Ordinance.)

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places, the outdoor environment, means of public transport and housing are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a national authority. The following measures have been promoted by the government to ensure accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, marking parking areas, installing lifts and accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing, installing special lighting and using contrast colours for visually impaired. There are special transport arrangements for persons with disabilities available for medical treatment, education, employment and for recreational purpose. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors, economic/budgetary factors, lack of legislation and regulations and lack of enforcement mechanism. There is no disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language is recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape, news magazines on tape/Braille and sign language interpretation for major events.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is no national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Disability organizations are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level.

The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government, legislatures, judicial authorities and political parties and to some extent in NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, identify needs and priorities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness, provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the secretary of Health and Welfare. It includes representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, and of Education, of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs, and from the private sector. The government expects the committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has led to improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has implicitly but not directly, led to a rethinking of the approach to disability policy.

Malaysian Leprosy Relief Association, Malaysia

No reply was received from the Government of Malaysia.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Malaysia is expressed in guidelines, adopted by the government. The emphasis in the disability policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law.

The Association states that the government has initiated and supported information campaigns, conveying the message of full participation, failing, however, to specify what these campaigns included.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation.

None of the following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation, and counselling, financial security, independent living or participation in decisions affecting themselves. Regarding the benefit of employment, 1% of persons with disabilities is being guaranteed employment in the public sector.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulation to ensure the accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. The following measures have been promoted by the government to facilitate

accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing and installing special lighting for the visually impaired. There are special transport arrangements - no specification is provided - for persons with disabilities available for recreational purpose. Special transport is not available for medical treatment, education or work. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language in education of deaf people or recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape and sign language being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Disability organizations are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government but to a great extent in NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to a particular Ministry. No specification is given. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Employment, and Education, as well as of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs and from the private sector. The co-ordinating committee is expected to perform other tasks, for instance, to organize seminars, exhibitions etc. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field and improved promotion of public awareness.

National Council of Social Service, Singapore

No reply was received from the Government of Singapore.

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy in Malaysia is expressed in guidelines, adopted by the government. The emphasis in the disability policy - in descending scale - is on individual support, rehabilitation, prevention, accessibility measures and anti-discrimination law.

The Association states that the government has initiated and supported information campaigns, conveying the message of full participation, failing, however, to specify what these campaigns included.

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by general legislation.

None of the following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation, and counselling, financial security, independent living or participation in decisions affecting themselves. Regarding the benefit of employment, 1% of persons with disabilities is being guaranteed employment in the public sector.

Accessibility

There are laws and regulation to ensure the accessibility of the built environment requiring that public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by local governments. The following measures have been promoted by the government to facilitate accessibility in the built environment: levelling off pavements, installing automatic doors, lifts, accessible toilets, ensuring access to public places, improving accessibility in housing and installing special lighting for the visually impaired. There are special transport arrangements - no specification is provided - for persons with disabilities available for recreational purpose. Special transport is not available for medical treatment, education or work. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments, are attitudinal factors and economic/budgetary factors.

Sign language for deaf people has no officially recognized status, is not used as the first language in education of deaf people or recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others. There are government measures to encourage media to make their information services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and other persons: literature in Braille/tape and sign language being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is a national umbrella organization. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making or to work with governmental institutions. Disability organizations are often consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in government but to a great extent in NGOs. The role of organizations of persons with disabilities is to advocate rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness and provide services.

Co-ordination of work

The co-ordinating committee is reporting to a particular Ministry. No specification is given. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Employment, and Education, as well as of organizations of persons with disabilities, of other NGOs and from the private sector. The co-ordinating committee is expected to perform other tasks, for instance, to organize seminars, exhibitions etc. The establishment of the co-ordinating committee has had the following effects: improved co-ordination of measures/programmes, improved legislation, a better dialogue in the disability field and improved promotion of public awareness.

National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, Thailand

General policy

The officially recognized disability policy is expressed in law and in guidelines, adopted by the government. The emphasis in this policy is on prevention, rehabilitation, accessibility measures, individual support, and anti-discrimination law.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the government has conveyed the message of full participation, through various actions (mass media, posters, brochures etc.).

Legislation

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by a combination of special legislation and general legislation. The judicial mechanism adopted to protect the rights of persons with disabilities is due process (legal remedy through the courts). There are no administrative or other non-judicial bodies.

General legislation applies with respect to persons with different disabilities with respect to education, employment, the right to marriage, the right to parenthood/family, political rights, access to court of law, the right to privacy and property rights. The following benefits are guaranteed by law to persons with disabilities: health and medical care, training, rehabilitation and counselling, financial security, employment, independent living and participation in decisions affecting themselves.

Since the adoption of the Rules, the "Rehabilitation and Disabled Persons Act" has been enacted.

Accessibility

There are rules to ensure the accessibility of the built environment which establish national design standards, requiring that public places are made accessible. Accessibility in the built environment is observed by a "sub-committee for rehabilitation of disabled persons on accessibility". The only measures promoted in order to ensure the accessibility in the built environment marking parking areas and providing financial support for accessibility measures in housing. There are no special transport arrangements. The most difficult obstacles, when planning to build accessible environments are attitudinal factors. There is a disability awareness component incorporated in the training of planners, architects and construction engineers.

Sign language has no officially recognized status. There are government measures to encourage media and other forms of public information to make their services accessible for persons with disabilities. The following services are provided in order to facilitate information and communication between persons with disabilities and others: literature in Braille/tape and sign language interpretation being available for any purpose.

Organizations of persons with disabilities

There is national umbrella organization. There are legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with governmental institutions. Disability organizations are always consulted, when laws and regulations with a disability aspect are being prepared. Consultations occur at the national level. The government gives financial support to existing or new organizations of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities participate to a very limited extent in judiciary, to some extent in government and political parties and to a great extent in legislatures and NGOs. The role of disabled persons organizations is to advocate rights and improved services, identify needs and priorities, mobilize persons with disabilities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities, contribute to public awareness,

provide services and promote/organize income generating activities.

Co-ordination of work

The national co-ordinating committee is reporting to the Ministry of Health Highways and Social Services. It includes representatives of many Ministries, of organizations of persons with disabilities and of other NGOs. The government expects the co-ordinating committee to participate in policy development and to perform other tasks. The establishment of the committee has led to improved legislation, improved integration of responsibility, a better dialogue in the disability field, more accurate planning, more effective use of resources and improved promotion of public awareness.

The adoption of the Rules has confirmed that "our policy is on the right track".

The reply sent by the Government of Thailand is identical with that of the National Council of Social Welfare of Thailand.
