



**MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA FRANCE AUPRÈS
DES NATIONS UNIES
À NEW YORK**

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17th Conference of the State Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Concept note

*Co-convened by the Governments of France, Greece and Tunisia
June 11th 2024, 4:45 pm – 6:00 pm
CR4*

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

Side Event: “Facilitating the Mobility of Students with Disabilities: Key Challenges and the Best Way to Address Them”

Background

Persons with disabilities have long underscored the need for States to implement policies which enable the adequate protection of their right to education as well as the right to work. These policies play a crucial role in an increasingly connected international landscape, where student mobility is an important feature of higher learning and education more broadly.

The CRPD Committee has recognized, in its general comment n°4 (2016) on article 24 of the CRPD Convention, the need to take steps to promote the right to inclusive education, in a context where several barriers can weigh on the ability of persons with disabilities to benefit from equal opportunities in the educational sphere.

In this context, removing existing obstacles to the cross-border mobility of students with disabilities is key. It goes through the implementation of adequate policies, in terms of infrastructure and investments in technologies.

Signature event

The Governments of France, Greece and Tunisia will co-host a Signature event, organized on the margins of the 17th Conference of the State Parties to the CRPD, that will focus on high-level discussions about the best way to address barriers to mobility for students with disabilities.

The discussions will cover a broad spectrum, in order to understand how the protection of the right to education of persons with disabilities requires the implementation of specific, forward-looking policies. Such policies include, but are not limited to, those designed to enhance the accessibility of educational premises or the ability to offer flexible curricula, as well as the need to train teachers and personnel on how to help foster an inclusive learning environment.

Indeed, access is one of the key concerns which prevent students with disabilities to engage in cross-border studies, in a context where differences in terms of language only compound other existing challenges.

In this context, the panel will lay stress on how public policy efforts designed to help protect the right to education and the right to work of students with disabilities must essentially move forward hand in hand.

In practice, better access to cross-border mobility means more educational opportunities. This, in turn, will help people with disabilities benefit from a better insertion in the labour market. The policies implemented in matters regarding both education and employment must thus be seen as part of the same continuum.

Objectives

- Detail how specific public policy efforts must be made to help enhance the mobility of international students, through the removal of existing barriers and bottlenecks;
- Understand how the right to education and the right to work of students with disabilities are intrinsically linked, and how better mobility needs to take into account the need to help students with disabilities benefit from a better integration into labour markets.

Format

The signature event will start with opening statements, and will proceed with panel discussions with participation of high-level government officials, keynote speakers from academia and civil society.

Moderator:

- Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

Opening remarks:

- Ms Fadila Khattabi, Secretary of State of the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities of France

Panel discussion:

- Mr Constantinos Stephanidis, President of the National Accessibility Authority of Greece
- Ms Khadija Jallouli, Youth Representative from Tunisia
- Mr Jérémie Boroy, President of the National Advisory Board on Persons with Disabilities of France

Q&A.

Closing remarks:

- Ambassador Tarek El Adab, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations