Delegate: Ece Bardakçı

Committee: UNHRC

School: FMV Işık School

Country: The Kingdom of Norway

Agenda Item(s): Ensuring Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities in Education and Social Life

Norway, officially the Kingdom of Norway, is a Nordic country in Northern Europe, situated on the Scandinavian Peninsula with a population of 5.5 million as of 2024. Capital city of Norway is Oslo. The official language is Norwegian. Official religion is the Christianity. The government system is a unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy. The biggest source of national income is the extraction and export of offshore oil and gas. Other significant industries include fishing, steel, shipping and tourism. The currency is Norwegian krone. For many people, Norway is synonymous with oil and mountains, with dramatic and beautiful scenery from the beaches and cliffs of the south, to the mountains in the middle and the midnight sun at the North Cape.

We are all different and special from each other. We may be born with mental or psychological disabilities. Sometimes, we may acquire disabilities later in life due to accidents we experience. No matter what happens, we must learn to live with them and not give up on life. At the same time, governments should support disabled individuals in social life and the education sector and consider their needs specifically to ensure they do not lose hope. 17% of Norway’s population are individuals with a disability. Women have a higher rate of disability compared to men with the difference being 4%. 8% of youth between 6-15 years old were granted access to special education services to allow for accommodative education and support. In Norway, we have sound legal protection against discrimination. The Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act entered into force on 1 January 2018. The purpose of the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act is to promote equality and prevent discrimination. The Act is built on the foundation that everyone should have the same opportunities, rights and obligations, irrespective of gender, care responsibilities, ethnicity, religion, belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, or any combination of the above. Inclusion and equality of persons with disabilities are preconditions for a sustainable welfare society and for individuals to be able to live free and independent lives. In 2013, Norway ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It obligates Norway to work to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected in the same way as those of others. The sustainability goals apply until 2030, underpinning the government’s ambition that all persons should have opportunities for progress and development. No one should be left out of the implementation of the UN’s sustainability goals.

Our strategy for the equality of persons with disabilities rests on four pillars: 1- Developing both universal solutions and special measures. 2- Working for self-determination, participation, involvement and inclusion. 3- Better organisational coordination at all levels. 4- Four focus areas: education, employment, health and care, and culture and leisure. The UN should do effective individualized support measures in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion. Also, the UN should help persons with disabilities to access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live. Last but not least, the UN should develop and distribute educational materials about Braille, alternative writing systems, and communication tools. This can be done through digital platforms, online courses, or physical materials.

References:

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