

The United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

Endorsement

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The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) endorses the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and encourages its member organisations to promote its implementation and monitoring. ¹ The Standard Rules represent a strong moral and political commitment of governments to take action to achieve equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Preconditions for equal participation

Rule 1 Awareness-raising

States should take action to raise awareness in society about persons with disabilities, their rights, their potential and their contribution.

Rule 2 Medical care

States should ensure the provision of effective medical care to persons with disabilities.

Rule 3 Rehabilitation

States should ensure the provision of rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities in order for them to reach and sustain their optimum level of independence and function.

Rule 4 Support services

States should ensure the development and supply of support services, including assistive devices for persons with disabilities, to assist them to increase their level of independence in their daily living and to exercise their rights.

Target areas for equal participation

Rule 5 Accessibility

States should recognise the overall importance of accessibility in the process of the equalisation of opportunities in all sphere of society. For persons with disabilities of any kind, states should (a) introduce programmes of action to make the physical environment accessible; and (b) undertake measures to provide access to information and communication.

Rule 6 Education

States should recognise the principle of equal primary, secondary and tertiary educational opportunities for children, youth and adults with disabilities, in integrated settings. They should ensure that the education of persons with disabilities is an integral part of the educational system.

Rule 7 Employment

States should recognise the principle that persons with disabilities must be empowered to exercise their human rights, particularly in the field of employment. In both rural and urban areas they must have equal opportunities for productive and gainful employment in the labour market.

Rule 8 Income maintenance and social security

States are responsible for the provision of social security and income maintenance for persons with disabilities.

Rule 9 Family life and personal integrity

States should promote the full participation of persons with disabilities in family life. They should promote their right to personal integrity and ensure that laws do not discriminate against persons with disabilities with respect to sexual relationships, marriage and parenthood.

Rule 10 Culture

States will ensure that persons with disabilities are integrated into, and can participate in, cultural activities on an equal basis.

Rule 11 Recreation and sport

States will take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities for recreation and sport.

Rule 12 Religion

States will encourage measures for equal participation by persons with disabilities in the religious life of their communities.

Implementation measures

Rule 13 Information and research

States assume the ultimate responsibility for the collection and dissemination of information on the living conditions of persons with disabilities and promote comprehensive research on all aspects, including obstacles that affect the lives of persons with disabilities.

Rule 14 Policy-making and planning

States will ensure that disability aspects are included in all relevant policy-making and national planning.

Rule 15 Legislation

States have the responsibility to create the legal basis for measures to achieve the objectives of full participation and equality for persons with disabilities.

Rule 16 Economic policies

States have the financial responsibility for national programmes and measures to create equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Rule 17 Coordination of Work

States are responsible for the establishment and strengthening of national coordinating committees, or similar bodies, to serve as a national focal point on disability matters.

Rule 18 Organisations of persons with disabilities

States should recognise the rights of the organisations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at national, regional and local levels.

Rule 19 Personnel training

States are responsible for ensuring the adequate training of personnel, at all levels, involved in the planning and provision of programmes and services concerning persons with disabilities.

Rule 20 National monitoring and evaluation of disability programmes in the implementation of the Rules

States are responsible for the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national programmes and services concerning the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Rule 21 Technical and economic cooperation

States, both industrialised and developing, have the responsibility to cooperate in and take measures for the improvement of the living conditions of persons with disabilities in developing countries.

Rule 22 International cooperation

States will participate actively in international cooperation concerning policies for the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

| Approval, review and related policy information | |
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| Date adopted: | Endorsed by the 13th General Meeting of WCPT June 1995. Edited and endorsement confirmed at the 16th General Meeting of WCPT June 2007. Endorsement re-affirmed at the 17th General Meeting of WCPT June 2011. Endorsement re-affirmed at the 18th General Meeting of WCPT May 2015. Endorsement re-affirmed at the 19th General Meeting of WCPT in May 2019 |
| Date for review: | Monitor UN for amendments. |
| Related WCPT policies: | WCPT endorsement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities WCPT policy statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patients'/clients' rights in physical therapy• Disability• Diversity and inclusion |

References

1. United Nations. Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. New York, USA: UN; 1993. www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/standard-rules-on-the-equalization-of-opportunities-for-persons-with-disabilities.html (Access date 13 August 2019)

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