



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT**

by

**Mr. Róbert Chatrnúch**

**Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the  
Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations**

**16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD**

**General Debate**

**13 June 2023  
New York**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

We appreciate the main topic of this year`s conference focused on harmonizing national policies and strategies with the CRPD. Despite some progress made, we are still far from ensuring that persons with disabilities can fully enjoy their rights. On contrary, challenges we are facing today, including several conflicts, Covid-19 pandemic consequences, climate change or socio-economic instability, have even exacerbated their already unfavourable situation deepening the risk of poverty or restricted access to basic health care services guaranteed.

Slovakia pays a significant attention to the issue of promotion and protection of human rights of persons with disabilities. The aim of the National Programme for the Development of the Living Conditions of Persons with Disabilities for 2021-2030 adopted by the Slovak Government is to strengthen conditions for the CRPD`s implementation in line with principle „leave no one behind“. Slovakia is committed to continue in its efforts to ensure that living conditions of persons with disabilities are improved, a high-quality care without any discrimination is provided to them and their inherent dignity as recognized by the CRPD is fully respected.

Moreover, the Government of Slovakia adopted the resolution of 28 June 2022 to create the Government Council for Persons with Disabilities as its advisory body to cope with challenges persons with disabilities are facing, including in the area of barriers removal, to foster their inclusion and improve their wellbeing in all sphere of the society. In order to reach this goal, the Slovak Government works closely with civil society and other stakeholders advocating interest of persons with disabilities who are also represented in the council concerned.

Mr President,

Slovakia seizes this opportunity to deplore once again unjustified and unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine as a blatant violation of international law and principles of the UN Charter. The situation of persons with disabilities is particularly appalling as in some cases they are unable to leave their home, cannot reach shelters and their access to basic

services and assistance is limited. Slovakia reiterates its call for an immediate cessation of Russian military activities in Ukraine and unconditional withdrawal of all Russian troops from the whole territory of Ukraine.

Thank you.