**South Africa Position Paper**

**UNHRC**

South Africa acknowledges the importance of ensuring equal rights for individuals with disabilities and is committed to creating an inclusive society where everyone can fully participate in education and social life. Addressing the barriers faced by persons with disabilities is crucial for achieving social justice and promoting equal opportunities for all.

South Africa has taken significant steps to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. The government’s White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides a comprehensive framework for addressing discrimination and ensuring access to education, employment, and social services. Legislation such as the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act reinforces these commitments. Despite these efforts, challenges persist, including inadequate infrastructure, lack of awareness, and insufficient resources, which continue to hinder the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

South Africa emphasizes the importance of international collaboration in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. As a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), South Africa actively supports global efforts to promote disability rights and foster inclusive development. Sharing best practices and working together to address common challenges are essential for making meaningful progress.

To enhance the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in education and social life, South Africa proposes several key measures. First, investing in accessible infrastructure, such as ramps, elevators, and adaptive technologies, is critical for ensuring participation in schools and public spaces. Second, launching awareness campaigns can help reduce stigma and promote understanding of the rights of persons with disabilities. Third, training educators and social service providers can improve support systems and enhance opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Lastly, fostering partnerships with NGOs, private sector stakeholders, and international organizations is vital for mobilizing resources and implementing effective initiatives.

South Africa is committed to collaborating with the international community to ensure equal rights for individuals with disabilities. By addressing barriers and fostering inclusivity, South Africa aims to build a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive in education and social life, regardless of their abilities.

Rana Özateşler

Delegate of South Africa