

Country: Bulgaria

Committee: (GA 3 SOCHUM Social Humanitarian Cultural Issues)

Agenda Item: Unemployment of People who Have Physical and Mental Impairments

Bulgaria, officially the Republic of Bulgaria is a country in Southeast Europe. It is situated on the eastern flank of the Balkans, and is bordered by Romania to the north, Serbia and North Macedonia to the west, Greece and Turkiye to the south, and the Black Sea to the east. Bulgaria covers a territory of 110,994 square kilometres (42,855 sq mi), and is the sixteenth-largest country in Europe. Sofia is the nation's capital and largest city; other major cities are Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas. The Republic of Bulgaria was accepted as a member of the United Nations (UN) on December 14, 1955. By participating in the annual sessions of the UN General Assembly, the forums held under the auspices of the UN, and the work of various bodies of the organisation, Bulgaria contributes to the promotion of effective multilateralism, trust, security and mutually beneficial cooperation in international relations.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers. These impairments may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. The rate of unemployment for people with disabilities continues to rise greatly above that of people without disabilities. The issue seems to be exacerbated by employer biases and concerns which are not supported in the face of evidence. A lack of employer education on disability related subjects cause this misconception among both employers and the public as a whole. Consequently, people who have physical or mental impairments are one of the biggest victims of unemployment. Persons with disabilities are frequently not considered potential members of the workforce. Perception, fear, myth and prejudice continue to limit understanding and acceptance of disability in workplaces everywhere. Myths abound, including that persons with disabilities are unable to work and that accommodating a person with a disability in the workplace is expensive.

On 13 December 2006, with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities UN affirmed the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities. Such resolutions raised awareness and called all member states of the UN to take action in terms of disabled people’s rights. These steps, took the actions to a further steps and in 2015, committees formed advanced the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond, recognizing persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development, and acknowledging the value of their contributions to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society.

Bulgaria approved The Persons with Disabilities Act (PDA) on 18 December 2018 and has enforced since 1 January 2019, and replaced the Law on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (January 2005). Few employers are willing to hire workers with disabilities, by implementing PDA, Bulgaria aims to promote, protect and guarantee the complete and equal rights and freedom of the people with disabilities, to create conditions for social inclusion for the people with disabilities, to improve the respect of the immanent human dignity of the people with disabilities, to grant support of the people with disabilities and their families.