

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Lithuania *

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the combined second and third periodic reports of Lithuania¹ at its 850th and 851st meetings,² held on 17 and 18 August 2026. It adopted the present concluding observations at its 864th meeting, held on 26 August 2026.
2. The Committee welcomes the combined second and third periodic reports of Lithuania, submitted in response to the list of issues,³ and thanks the State Party for its written replies to the list of issues.⁴
3. The Committee appreciates the constructive dialogue held with the State Party's delegation, which included representatives of the parliament, the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, the responsible agency and the relevant government ministries, as well as the additional information submitted by the State Party in writing following the dialogue. The Committee also appreciates the participation of the Commission for the Monitoring of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, in its capacity as the independent monitoring mechanism designated pursuant to article 33 (2) of the Convention.
4. The Committee recalls its concluding observations on the initial report of Lithuania, adopted in 2016,⁵ and notes with concern that a number of the recommendations made at that time — including on the definition of disability, the abolition of legal incapacity, the deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities, forced sterilisation, and the establishment of an adequately resourced independent monitoring mechanism — have not yet been fully implemented.

II. Positive aspects

5. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State Party to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and to implement the Convention since the consideration of its initial report, including the following:
 - (a) The adoption, in 2022, of the Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (“LFPRPD”), entering into force on 1 January 2024;

* Adopted by the Committee at its thirty-fifth session (12–27 August 2026).

¹ CRPD/C/LTU/2-3

² See CRPD/C/SR.850 and CRPD/C/SR.851

³ CRPD/C/LTU/Q/2-3

⁴ CRPD/C/LTU/RQ/2-3

⁵ CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1

- (b) The adoption of the Law on the Requirements for Accessibility of Products and Services, entering into force in 2025;
- (c) The establishment of the Council for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities in 2024, involving representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities;
- (d) The establishment of the Commission for the Monitoring of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2019;
- (e) The disability assessment reform in 2024 that strengthened the evaluation of social aspects of disability by adjusting assessment criteria according to the type of disability;
- (f) The comprehensive disability reform under implementation since 2024, including the establishment of the Agency for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a “one-stop-shop” support-coordination system, accompanied by an increase in dedicated funding from over €226 million in 2020 to a planned €687 million in 2026.

III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1–4)

6. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Some of the basic definitions in the LFPRPD, such as the definitions of “person with a disability” and “disability” reflect elements of the medical model, rather than on the human rights model of disability;
- (b) That, although the June 2025 amendments to the Law on Equal Treatment extended the duty to provide reasonable accommodation, the Committee remains concerned about the practical implementation of this expanded obligation, including in the health sector, which does not appear to be explicitly covered by the amended Law;
- (c) Despite an increase in the proportion of members of organizations of persons with disabilities on national coordinating bodies, the visibility, funding and advocacy capacity of grassroots and rural disabled persons' organizations remained limited;
- (d) State funding for organizations of persons with disabilities increased by only 44 per cent since 2015 and has remained unchanged since 2024, while labour costs rose by approximately 193 per cent over the same period;
- (e) The advocacy capacity of regional organizations of persons with disabilities appears to have been weakened since 2023 by a shift to accreditation-based funding which increasingly restricts funded organizations to service delivery, leaving many municipalities without adequately resourced disability-rights advocacy;
- (f) Organizations of persons with disabilities in some municipalities report being intentionally excluded from decision-making processes, and there is no settled practice for consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities on draft legislation and policy except within the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, with inconsistent or absent consultation within other ministries, including Health and Education;
- (g) There is a lack of systematic integration of universal design requirements into public procurement procedures in practice.

7. **The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

- (a) **Revise the definition of disability in national law to align it fully with the human rights model of disability, removing fixed medical thresholds and derogatory terminology;**
- (b) **Ensure the effective implementation of the June 2025 amendments to the Law on Equal Treatment across all covered sectors, and ensure that its denial be recognized as a form of disability-based discrimination;**

(c) **Ensure sustained and increased State funding for organizations of persons with disabilities, with particular attention to those led by women, in rural areas and at grass-roots level;**

(d) **Ensure sustainable State funding for independent regional disability-rights advocacy, distinct from and additional to service-delivery funding, and ensure that the shift to accreditation-based funding does not restrict funded organizations to service-delivery as opposed to advocacy;**

(e) **Establish standardized procedures for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities including through their representative organizations in decision-making at national and municipal levels;**

(f) **Mandate and ensure the application of the universal design requirements in public procurement.**

B. Specific rights (arts. 5–30)

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

8. The Committee welcomes the amendments to the Law on Equal Treatment, adopted by the Seimas in June 2025, which recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination. It notes with concern, however, that:

(a) There is a lack of effective monitored implementation for the 2025 amendments on the Law on Equal Treatment;

(b) Consumer services and employment continue to generate the highest number of disability-related discrimination complaints received by the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson.

9. **The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

(a) **Ensure the effective, monitored implementation of the 2025 amendments to the Law on Equal Treatment from their entry into force through the use of indicators and timelines and ensure that the principle of reasonable accommodation is applied across all sectors and that its denial continues to be recognized as a form of disability discrimination;**

(b) **Adopt a dedicated strategic policy with indicators and timelines to address discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of goods, services and employment.**

Women with disabilities (art. 6)

10. The Committee is concerned that its previous recommendation⁶ to prevent and eradicate discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, including on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, with a view to addressing multiple and intersectional discrimination, remains unimplemented, and notes:

(a) The declining funding for violence-prevention projects for women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The high prevalence of violence against women and girls and that a 2023 review by the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson found that only 5 of 13 specialized comprehensive assistance centres and 14 of 59 temporary accommodation facilities provide accessible services aimed to accommodate women with disabilities;

(c) The lack of disaggregated data about women and girls with disabilities regarding domestic and institutional violence.

⁶ CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, paras.15-16

11. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Reverse the decline in funding for violence-prevention projects for women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Adopt targeted, adequately funded and explicitly intersectional measures to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities, including those facing multiple and intersectional discrimination on grounds such as sexual orientation or gender identity, and ensure access for all women with disabilities to specialized violence-support and temporary accommodation services, and explicitly recognize women with disabilities as a distinct vulnerable group in the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence;

(c) Collect disability-disaggregated data on women with disabilities who experience domestic and institutional violence.

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

12. The Committee is concerned that there is no mechanism to ensure that children with disabilities participate in decisions affecting them.

13. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, establish accessible mechanisms to secure the right of children with disabilities to express their views in all matters affecting them, including judicial and administrative proceedings.

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

14. The Committee welcomes information provided on the work of the Permanent Inter-Institutional Working Group to Promote an Effective Response to Hate Crime and Hate Speech, and notes that the Office of the Prosecutor General has developed and approved Methodological Recommendations for Pre-Trial Investigation of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech. , The Committee also welcomes the creation of a dedicated position to monitor online hate crimes, including those targeting persons with disabilities. The Committee is however concerned:

(a) That a 2022 public survey by the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson found that fewer than half of respondents supported inclusive schooling for children with disabilities, and that a 2020 survey found persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to be perceived as the most discriminated-against groups in society;

(b) The persistence of negative stereotypes and hate speech towards persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, and the absence of disaggregated data to assess whether the 2017 inclusion of disability as a ground of hate speech and hate crime in the Criminal Code is being effectively applied in practice;

(c) That the impact of awareness-raising campaigns is rarely assessed and that organizations of persons with disabilities are not systematically involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of national campaigns.

15. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Design a national awareness-raising strategy, developed with organizations of persons with disabilities, targeting the persistence of negative attitudes, including those towards inclusive education and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Carry out media campaigns aimed at eliminating prejudices, negative stereotypes and hate speech against persons with disabilities and promoting attitudinal change, and, with the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensure the effective monitoring of disability-motivated hate speech and hate crime, including collecting disaggregated data to assess whether the 2017 inclusion of disability as a ground of hate speech and hate crime in the Criminal Code is being effectively applied in practice;

(c) Develop and apply methodologies to assess the impact of awareness-raising campaigns, with the systematic involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in their design, implementation and evaluation.

Accessibility (art. 9)

16. The Committee notes the development of the “Development Programme for Environments Suitable for People with Disabilities 2021-2030”, but is concerned that:

(a) Physical and information accessibility reportedly stand at approximately 30 and 5 per cent respectively, and that even under a stricter 2026 assessment, approximately only 4.06 per cent of assessed public buildings met minimum accessibility requirements;

(b) There is an absence of sanctions and of an independent monitoring mechanism to verify accessibility self-assessments and to monitor compliance;

(c) Accessibility measures continue to exclude individuals with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(d) There are gaps in public transport accessibility, with accessibility continuing to be assessed mainly at the level of individual vehicles rather than of the entire travel chain, accessibility in only approximately 3 per cent of long-distance buses and many municipalities neither adapting their transport fleets nor including accessibility criteria in procurements;

(e) Applicable construction accessibility standards (STR 2.03.01:2019; ISO 21542:2011) remain outdated, notwithstanding updated international standards available since 2021;

(f) Housing-adaptation coverage remained at only 63 per cent in 2022, with a 40 per cent municipal co-financing requirement contributing to procurement failures and unspent funds.

17. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Implement a time-bound, adequately funded plan of action, with measurable indicators, to expand the accessibility of the physical, transport and information environments, encompassing all types of disability;

(b) Establish an independent mechanism to verify accessibility self-assessments and monitor compliance, and introduce dissuasive sanctions, including a prohibition on using public and European Union funds for the construction of inaccessible infrastructure;

(c) Ensure that accessibility measures and standards explicitly address the requirements of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(d) Update construction accessibility regulations to be in line with current international standards;

(e) Review the municipal co-financing requirement for housing adaptations to prevent procurement failures and ensure allocated funds are fully utilized.

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

18. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Civil Protection Strengthening and Development Programme 2024–2030, the 2025 procedure requiring a mandatory disability subsection in crisis and emergency management plans, and the information that over €3 million has been allocated to improve the accessibility of more than 500 shelters and that 300 specialists received civil protection training in 2025, while noting that the Independent Monitoring Mechanism continues to report that implementation remains uneven, particularly at the local level. It remains concerned:

(a) That the national emergency (“112”) application remains inaccessible to persons with visual, intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) That civil protection and disaster-management plans lack specific, detailed provisions on the safety and evacuation of persons with disabilities, notwithstanding recent measures to improve data availability at the municipal level;

(c) That evacuation plans are not consistently available in accessible formats, and only around four in ten persons with disabilities know what action to take in an emergency, with around 15 per cent having a personal emergency plan.

19. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Committee’s guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, ensure that:

(a) The 112 emergency application and all emergency communications are accessible to persons with all types of disabilities;

(b) Civil protection and disaster-risk plans at all levels contain specific, resourced provisions for persons with disabilities developed in close consultation with their representative organizations, and that municipalities maintain accurate, disaggregated data on persons with disabilities for emergency-preparedness purposes;

(c) All shelters and collective protection structures are made physically accessible, that evacuation plans and emergency information are consistently available in Braille, sign language, audio and easyread formats, and that persons with disabilities are supported to develop individual emergency plans through targeted awareness-raising.

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

20. The Committee welcomes the expansion of the supported decision-making pilot and ongoing discussions on legal capacity reform, while remaining concerned that:

(a) The institute of full or partial legal capacity restriction, established under the Civil Code, remains in force and continues to expand rather than contract: as of August 2026, 10,570 persons were registered as lacking legal capacity in a specific area, 63 as fully lacking legal capacity in all areas, and 1,838 with restricted legal capacity; that of 42 court proceedings initiated to review legal capacity between 2019 and 2023, full or partial restoration was granted in only 17 cases; and that fewer than half of pre-2016 capacity decisions had been reviewed by the 2018 statutory deadline;

(b) The supported decision-making pilot, though expanded to more than 900 persons, remains available in only a limited number of regions, with formal agreements and advance directives numbering only in the dozens against thousands of persons under capacity restrictions;

(c) That a draft law aiming to move from substitute towards supported decision-making remains under discussion, and that a reformed "guardianship" system, if interpreted broadly, risks reproducing the restrictions of the current legal capacity regime rather than replacing it.

21. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee urges the State Party to, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Abolish full and partial legal capacity restriction schemes and replace them, without further delay, with supported decision-making mechanisms accessible in all areas of life, and conduct a systematic review of all existing guardianship and capacity restriction decisions with a view to restoring full legal capacity;

(b) Transform the supported decision-making pilot into a permanent, adequately resourced and guaranteed service, available nationwide;

(c) Ensure that any reformed guardianship model is not, in substance or application, equivalent to the current institute of legal incapacity, and is compliant with the Convention.

Access to justice (art. 13)

22. The Committee welcomes that a 2024 proposal to integrate the national e-health system with the Police Incident Register was not approved. The Committee is also concerned that:

(a) Information on the physical accessibility of court buildings and on the availability of procedural accommodations in practice remains limited, and that no information was provided on reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in prisons;

(b) Disability-motivated hate crimes remain effectively invisible in crime statistics, and the EU Victims' Rights Directive's transposition lacks disability-specific provisions; a July 2025 criminal investigation into a podcast mocking persons with achondroplasia remains ongoing;

(c) A 2026 Action Plan measure to provide disability-rights training for police officers lacks a clear implementation mechanism, dedicated funding, and clarity as to who will design and deliver the training.

23. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Systematically assess and report on the physical accessibility of court buildings, guarantee individualized procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities in all judicial proceedings and in places of deprivation of liberty, and expand accessible remote participation options where in-person attendance constitutes a disproportionate burden;

(b) Ensure that crime statistics disaggregate disability-motivated hate crimes, complete the transposition of the EU Victims' Rights Directive with disability-specific provisions, and ensure the podcast investigation is concluded and, if warranted, prosecuted;

(c) Ensure the Action Plan measure on police training is backed by a clear implementation mechanism, dedicated funding, and designated responsibility for its design and delivery.

Liberty and security of person (art. 14)

24. While noting the Action Plan for the Prevention of Involuntary Hospitalisation 2023-2024, the Committee is concerned:

(a) That the 2019 Law expanded the grounds for, and extended the time limits on, involuntary hospitalization; that article 98 of the Criminal Code authorizes compulsory psychiatric treatment for persons found not criminally responsible; and that involuntary hospitalization and treatment affect persons with intellectual disabilities, including persons with Down syndrome;

(b) That restraint cases rose from 1,046 (2023) to 1,337 (2024); and that a 2025 reform working group on reform of the Law on Mental Health Care reached no agreement;

(c) That the Ministry of Health's support for the draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention does not yet fully reflect the alignment with the Convention to which the State Party is committed;

(d) About the findings by the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudspersons, following 2020 monitoring visits to State social care homes, of persons with disabilities being unlawfully confined in locked rooms, including one instance involving barred windows, for prolonged periods, and of degrading conditions of intensive supervision;

(e) The conclusions of the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, following its 2022 assessment of detention sites for persons who crossed the Lithuanian–Belarusian border, that asylum seekers with long-term impairments were being detained without adequate identification of their disabilities or corresponding reasonable accommodation, which the State Party's replies likewise did not address.

25. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014), its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Revise the 2019 Law on Mental Health Care to ensure that involuntary hospitalization is never based on disability, revise article 98 of the Criminal Code to ensure that compulsory psychiatric treatment is not applied to persons with intellectual disabilities, and ensure that persons with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities are not subjected to involuntary hospitalization or treatment on the basis of their disability;

(b) In recognition of the Committee's joint open letter with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and its open letters to the Council of Europe, dated June 2021, January 2025 and July 2026, promote a move away from coercive measures and the development of a non-coercive framework on mental health, as required under the Convention, ensuring a coherent, whole-of-government position — including on the part of the Ministry of Health — in any process to adopt an additional protocol to or recommendation concerning the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine; and, domestically, translate its stated position that any such Additional Protocol must be fully aligned with the Convention into legislative outcomes without delay, including through the Mental Health Care Act currently being drafted;

(c) Conduct full, effective and independent investigations into all instances of unlawful deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities in social care institutions, provide remedies to victims, and implement the recommendations of the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudspersons arising from its monitoring visits;

(d) End the detention of asylum seekers and migrants with disabilities, strengthen disability identification at the border and in reception procedures, and ensure reasonable accommodation is provided wherever detention nonetheless occurs.

**Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
(art. 15)**

26. The Committee notes with concern the continued legal authorization of physical and manual restraint and isolation of persons with psychosocial disabilities in mental health and social care settings, notwithstanding a reported decreasing trend in recorded cases, and the absence of comprehensive, independently verified disaggregated data on the use of such measures across all institutional settings, including in places of deprivation of liberty administered by the Prison Service.

27. Recalling its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, take all legislative, administrative and judicial measures necessary:

(a) To abolish the use of restraint and isolation as a means of control in mental health and social care settings,

(b) To establish independent, comprehensive and public reporting on the use of restraint across all settings to identify and address harmful and restrictive practices.

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)

28. The Committee welcomes the 2021 Law on Support to Victims of Crime and the 2022 reform of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence. It further welcomes the establishment, since 2023, of the national “Prabilk” information and helpline service for victims of sexual violence, and the availability of round-the-clock, multidisciplinary care for victims of sexual violence through five regional centres. It is however concerned:

(a) That official crime and domestic-violence statistics do not comprehensively capture disability-related victimisation beyond hate crime data, limiting the ability to assess the scale of violence against persons with disabilities more broadly;

(b) That there is no independent authority specifically designated to monitor all facilities and programmes for persons with disabilities;

(c) That there is no dedicated plan of action or data-collection mechanism on abuse of children with disabilities;

(d) That the State Party has not ratified the Istanbul Convention; and that a 2021 study found 84 per cent of women with disabilities had experienced physical violence, with only one in five reporting to police.

29. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) **Ensure that official crime and domestic-violence statistics are disaggregated by disability to comprehensively capture disability-related victimisation beyond hate crime data, and provide training to law-enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial personnel on recognising and investigating violence against persons with disabilities, including disability-motivated hate crime;**

(b) **Designate an independent authority to monitor all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention;**

(c) **Develop a resourced plan of action to prevent and respond to abuse and violence against children with disabilities, including a dedicated data-collection mechanism, and establish accessible mechanisms, using appropriate communication supports, to secure the right of children with disabilities to express their views and participate in judicial and administrative proceedings;**

(d) **Ratify the Istanbul Convention, and conduct sustained awareness-raising on the rights and support available to women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence.**

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

30. The Committee notes information provided during the dialogue that the State Party intends to move towards the abandonment of forced interventions. The Committee however remains concerned that the Civil Code permits non-consensual sterilisation, castration, abortion and organ removal on persons deprived of legal capacity upon court authorization, that the reform has not yet resulted in a concrete amendment to this provision or a remedy for victims, and that no disaggregated data are collected on court-authorised sterilisations.

31. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation⁷ and recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities and intersex persons, through their representative organizations, give legislative effect to its stated intention to abandon forced interventions by:

⁷ CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 38

(a) **Abolishing, without further delay, all practices of forced treatment, including non-consensual castration, sterilisation and abortion, and eliminate the possibility for guardians, doctors or courts to authorise such practices;**

(b) **Adopting an explicit legislative prohibition on involuntary medical interventions on intersex infants and children;**

(c) **Establishing an effective remedy, including compensation, for victims of forced sterilisation, castration, abortion or organ removal;**

(d) **Collecting disaggregated data on court-authorised sterilisation and other forced interventions of persons with disabilities.**

Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)

32. The Committee is concerned that article 1(2) of the LFPRPD, while extending protection to foreigners already granted asylum or temporary protection, does not extend to asylum seekers whose applications remain pending or to foreigners without a settled legal status.

33. **The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations extend the protection of the LFPRPD to asylum seekers whose applications are pending and to all other persons with disabilities within its jurisdiction, regardless of legal or migration status.**

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

34. The Committee noted that the State Party must have a deep understanding/interpretation of deinstitutionalization as recorded in the Committee's documents. The Committee however remains concerned about the following:

(a) That large institutions have in practice been reorganised into smaller groups of residents while continuing to operate within the same building, under unchanged institutional routines, understaffing and lack of individual choice, including in newly established group homes, which have in many cases been set up by the institutions themselves without ensuring residents' genuine choice of where and with whom to live; and that the pace of deinstitutionalisation of the approximately 5,500–6,000 persons with disabilities still living in such settings remains slow;

(b) That no family-based care placements are currently available for children with autism with greater assistance needs or significant behavioural support needs, such children being placed exclusively in institutional care in practice;

(c) That there is no national action plan for independent living, relying instead on roadmaps developed independently by individual municipalities, and that municipalities report gaps in infrastructure and staff competence for small group homes for persons with severe support needs;

(d) That social care home capacity fell from 6,583 (2018) to 5,830 (2023) while the waiting list grew from 197 to 321, indicating a tightening bottleneck; and that a peer-reviewed 2025 WHO QualityRights assessment found legal capacity, liberty and ill-treatment safeguards at the lowest level across nearly all 11 facilities assessed;

(e) The absence of information on a moratorium on new institutional admissions of children, and on a halt to the use of national and European Union funds for institutional renovation or construction, and the lack of disaggregated data on children under 3 years of age with disabilities placed in residential institutions;

(f) The absence of a system to monitor whether municipalities are ensuring an adequate level of individualised community-based services, and whether existing services are preventing, rather than merely reorganising, segregation;

(g) That personal assistance was in practice interrupted for some persons with disabilities in 2024 owing to insufficient funding, and that municipalities apply inconsistent

rules on co-financing services for persons with intensive support needs, in some cases shifting costs onto families.

35. **Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities, the Committee welcomes the State Party's stated commitment that, from 2030, new institutional long-term-care placements for persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities will no longer be initiated, and recommends that this commitment be underpinned by a costed, binding implementation roadmap developed with organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as:**

(a) **Adopt a deinstitutionalisation strategy with a binding time frame for closing all residential institutions, ensure persons with disabilities exercise their free choice of where and with whom to live; and ensure that community-based settings do not reproduce institutional routines, staffing patterns or restrictions on choice;**

(b) **Ensure that adequately resourced, individualised family-based alternatives are developed for children and adults with the most complex support requirements, including autistic persons with greater support requirements, and that the deinstitutionalisation process is underpinned by evidence-based, relational and trauma-informed programming and accessible tools for reporting violence;**

(c) **Adopt a national action plan for independent living, developed with the close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities;**

(d) **Address the growing gap between institutional capacity and demand through accelerated investment in community-based alternatives, and establish independent monitoring of conditions in remaining institutions to give effect to the safeguards identified as deficient by the 2025 WHO QualityRights assessment;**

(e) **Report to the Committee, in its next periodic report, on implementation of the Committee's previous recommendations for a moratorium on new institutional admissions of children with disabilities and a halt to the use of national and European Union funds for the renovation or construction of residential institutions;**

(f) **Establish indicators and monitoring mechanisms to assess whether community services enable genuine inclusion in the community or merely reproduce segregation in a different form;**

(g) **Ensure that persons with disabilities receive personal assistance adjusted to individually assessed needs rather than a uniform allocation, secure stable funding to prevent interruptions in service, and establish consistent, fair co-financing rules that do not shift costs onto families.**

Personal mobility (art. 20)

36. The Committee welcomes the November 2025 revision of the law on assistance dogs, which from May 2026 permits guide and assistance dogs to access all public transport, public buildings and private taxis and vehicles, and the introduction of a new compensation measure for vehicle adaptation. The Committee further welcomes the expansion of the list of compensated mobility, hearing, vision, communication and sensory aids since 2022, while noting with concern that driving-related training and adaptation support remain limited in scale, and that persons living in long-term residential institutions may lose entitlement to certain assistive devices or housing adaptations.

37. **The Committee recommends that the State Party continue to expand the availability and funding of personal mobility aids and assistive technologies for all types of disability and ensure their equitable availability outside major urban centres.**

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)

38. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The number of registered sign-language interpreters remains modest (115 as of 2022), and that accessible information formats — Easy Read, Braille and captioning in particular, are not yet mainstreamed as a general obligation across public communication, including by the private sector;

(b) That although persons with disabilities have had the right, since 2024, to request public information in Easy-to-Read language and other accessible formats, only 1.7 per cent of surveyed public sector institutions reported having received such a request in 2025, suggesting limited practical awareness or uptake of this right notwithstanding substantial investment in Easy-to-Read infrastructure;

(c) Commercial broadcasters remain under no legal obligation to ensure accessibility, and that most sign-language-interpreted content is limited to news programming.

39. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Guarantee that official information and websites in both the public and private sectors are accessible, including through the use of audio description, Easy Read and Lithuanian sign language, and increase the number of trained sign-language interpreters, including within mainstream general education schools;

(b) Take measures to raise awareness among persons with disabilities, public and private sector institutions of the right to request information in accessible formats, and monitor and address the low practical uptake of this right;

(c) Extend accessibility obligations, currently applicable only to the public broadcaster, to commercial broadcasters, and expand sign-language interpretation and other accessible formats beyond news programming to cultural, entertainment and children's content.

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

40. The Committee welcomes the judgment of the Supreme Court of Lithuania of 11 October 2023 (civil case No. e3K-3-246-421/2023), which upheld a finding that a municipality had discriminated against parents with disabilities and their child by failing to exhaust available support measures before the child's removal, and notes that, following the birth of the family's second child, the municipality provided support enabling that child to remain in the family's care. The Committee remains concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities, especially those whose declared legal capacity has been denied or restricted by court decision, can be denied the right to marry, found a family and adopt and raise children;

(b) Children have reportedly been removed from parents with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities without adequate assessment of available support; and that support relies on general child-focused services not designed to meet parents' own needs, with day-care centres' association with social risk deterring some families from using them;

(c) Families living in group or community residential settings often cannot access individualised parenting support, such as a dedicated social worker or personal assistant, because such support is limited within the institution and shared among several families and other residents;

(d) Children with disabilities who cannot remain with their birth parents continue to lack sufficient family- and community-based care alternatives;

(e) There is no mechanism to secure the participation of children and parents with disabilities, including those with intellectual, cognitive or communication impairments, in decisions affecting their home and family life, including placement and child-protection proceedings.

41. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation⁸ and urges the State Party to:

(a) Repeal provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities, in particular those whose legal capacity has been denied or restricted by court decision, to marry, found a family and adopt and raise children, review the criteria and safeguards governing such court decisions, and ensure that parents with disabilities, in particular mothers, receive adequate support to exercise their parental rights without being compelled to leave employment;

(b) Ensure that disability is never used as a justification for separating a child from their family or as an indicator of parental incapacity, applying the finding reflected in the judgment of the Supreme Court consistently and pre-emptively across the country so that all available support measures are exhausted before a child is removed;

(c) Develop and fund individualised parenting-support measures for parents with disabilities — including a personal assistant or dedicated social worker for families— covering assistance with daily parenting tasks, and ensure that such support services are designed and communicated in a way that avoids stigmatising association with social risk;

(d) Accelerate the development of family- and community-based alternatives to institutional care for children who cannot remain with their birth parents, with clear targets and disaggregated data;

(e) Establish accessible mechanisms, using appropriate communication supports, to secure the right of children and parents with disabilities to express their views and participate in placement, child-protection and other decisions affecting their home and family life.

Education (art. 24)

42. The Committee welcomes the increase in mainstream enrolment of children with disabilities and the associated funding and teacher-training measures. It nonetheless remains concerned that:

(a) The widely cited figure of around 90 per cent mainstream enrolment concerns children with “special educational needs generally”, not all of whom are formally recognised as children with disabilities, and cannot be considered as a measure of the inclusion of children with disabilities specifically;

(b) The disability-specific mainstream inclusion rate, while rising from 48.9 per cent in 2020 to 59.1 per cent in 2025, remains well below the 90 per cent target set for 2030;

(c) That only 7 of the country's 947 general education schools were fully physically accessible in 2021;

(d) That the availability of trained educational-support specialists, may not be adequate to accommodate children with disabilities, particularly outside major urban centres;

(e) That educational support currently ends at age 21 (or 23 in specified circumstances), after which persons with disabilities lose access to disability-specific educational accommodation;

(f) That around 47 special, segregated schools continue to operate, and that negative societal attitudes towards inclusive education remain widespread;

(g) That, of 426 children who are deaf and hard of hearing, only 62.2 per cent are educated in mainstream classes, with the remainder in special classes or specialised institutions; and that segregated special classes for “pervasive developmental disorders”,

⁸ CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 44

including autism, continue to operate within mainstream schools, notwithstanding the delegation's clarification that no separate schools exist for this group;

(h) That, as of 2025 no university building fully met accessibility standards and that financial support mechanisms for students with disabilities in higher education remain inadequate;

(i) At the rise of in home-based education, sometimes under pressure; and at high early school leaving and "Not in Employment, Education, or Training" (NEET) rates;

(j) That a 2024 amendment permitting schools to propose transferring a student where accommodation would allegedly constitute a "disproportionate burden" lacks clear assessment criteria;

(k) That vocational and adult-education programmes remain organised on a segregated, impairment-specific basis, with accessible programmes offered to only a small fraction of participants, none of them for persons with hearing or intellectual disabilities;

(l) That, on the national adult-education platform "Kursuok" launched in 2024, only a small fraction of programmes are offered to persons with disabilities, with none available to persons with hearing or intellectual disabilities.

43. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure that data on inclusive education clearly distinguish children with disabilities from the broader "special educational needs" population;

(b) Adopt a costed, time-bound plan to reach the 90% disability-specific mainstream inclusion target by 2030;

(c) Adopt and resource a time-bound plan to make all school environments physically and informationally accessible, with clear indicators and municipal targets;

(d) Ensure an adequate number of trained educational-support persons in all regions, including rural areas;

(e) Remove the age limit on disability-specific educational support and ensure access to inclusive education and reasonable accommodation throughout life;

(f) Develop a transition strategy, with a clear time frame, to close special schools and transfer resources to inclusive mainstream settings, accompanied by sustained public awareness-raising;

(g) Ensure that children who are deaf and hard of hearing and children with "significant developmental disorders" are included in mainstream settings with individualised support, and clarify the discrepancy between the delegation's statement and the continued operation of segregated classes for the latter group;

(h) Ensure disability-inclusive access to higher education, including accessible campuses, non-discriminatory admissions and support criteria, and adequate, disability-specific financial support mechanisms;

(i) Address the rise in home-based education, including reports of pressure on families, and take targeted measures to reduce early school leaving and NEET rates;

(j) Establish clear, rights-based criteria for assessing reasonable accommodation in schools and discontinue the practice of transferring students absent such criteria;

(k) End the organisation of vocational and adult-education programmes on a segregated, impairment-specific basis;

(l) Ensure that the "Kursuok" platform and similar adult-education initiatives offer accessible programming to persons with all types of disability, including hearing and intellectual disabilities.

Health (art. 25)

44. The Committee welcomes measures taken to strengthen informed consent and accessible emergency and maternity care, but remains concerned about:

- (a) The absence of disaggregated data on health outcomes and access to services for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in particular;
- (b) The accessibility of sexual and reproductive health-care equipment at the municipal level and the availability of information on sexual and reproductive health in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The fact that residents of social care institutions do not always receive necessary specialised health services, that their privacy is frequently violated during medical procedures, and that a large proportion of medical institutions fail to meet minimum accessibility requirements.

45. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

- (a) Collect and publish data on health-care access and outcomes disaggregated by type of disability, and ensure that health-care professionals receive systematic training on the human rights model of disability, with particular attention to eliminating discriminatory attitudes towards persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure that sexual and reproductive health-care facilities and equipment are physically accessible at the municipal level, and that information on sexual and reproductive health and rights is systematically available in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure that, pending deinstitutionalization, specialised health-care and privacy protections are provided in social care institutions in line with individual needs, and bring all medical institutions into compliance with accessibility requirements.**

Habilitation and rehabilitation (art. 26)

46. The Committee notes that habilitation and rehabilitation services are available through contracted health-care institutions, but is concerned that:

- (a) There is no information on the geographic distribution of such services and on measures to ensure their equitable availability outside major urban centres;
- (b) Persons with disabilities reportedly wait 2–3 months for a rehabilitation specialist and 3–7 months or longer for supported rehabilitation in a sanatorium;
- (c) The legal requirement for rehabilitation facilities to provide assistants for persons needing support with daily activities is often not implemented in practice;
- (d) Persons with visual impairments experience delays in referral between health-care and social rehabilitation services owing to data-protection and coordination barriers between institutions.

47. **The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, adopt a human rights-based approach in its habilitation and rehabilitation programmes, and:**

- (a) Assess and address geographic disparities in access to habilitation and rehabilitation services, ensuring equitable availability nationwide;**
- (b) Take measures to reduce waiting times for rehabilitation specialists and sanatorium-based rehabilitation;**
- (c) Ensure that rehabilitation facilities are adequately staffed to provide assistants for persons requiring support with daily activities, in line with existing legal requirements;**

(d) Remove data-protection and coordination barriers between health-care and social rehabilitation services to ensure timely referral, in particular for persons with visual impairments.

Work and employment (art. 27)

48. The Committee welcomes the 2022 abolition of the special legal status of "social enterprises" and the reform of the disability-assessment methodology to reduce reliance on purely medical criteria, but remains concerned that the employment rate of persons with disabilities of working age remains low. It is further concerned:

(a) That the "work capacity level"— a percentage-based assessment of lost working capacity— continues to underpin eligibility for work-incapacity pensions and related benefits;

(b) That "social workshop" arrangements for persons with "severe psychosocial or intellectual disabilities" continue to be funded and operated notwithstanding the formal abolition of the social-enterprise status, raising the risk that segregated working environments persist under a different institutional label;

(c) That the employment gap widened from 32.4 to 42.8 per cent (2023–2025), against an EU average of 24; that only 10 per cent of working-age persons with disabilities engage with employment services; and that carers of adult (over 18) family members lack care-related leave entitlements.

49. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Clarify whether the "work capacity level" system used to determine eligibility for work-incapacity pensions and related benefits will be replaced by an assessment consistent with the human rights model of disability, rather than merely adjusted in degree, and report on progress in this regard;

(b) Set out a concrete, time-bound pathway for transitioning persons with disabilities currently in segregated work settings, including social workshops, into the open labour market, with individualised support, and monitor and report on progress towards the 2030 employment target disaggregated by gender, age and type of disability;

(c) Ensure stable, adequately and continuously funded employment-support measures, including uninterrupted wage subsidies for employers.

Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)

50. The Committee welcomes 2024 amendments to the Law on Social Pensions removing the previous rule under which employed recipients lost pension entitlements. The Committee however notes the State Party's assertion, that persons with disabilities remain among the population groups most exposed to the risk of poverty, and its stated intention to make poverty reduction an objective of the National Progress Plan for 2028–2034. The Committee is further concerned at findings from a 2022 survey that median disability-related out-of-pocket expenses (€319 per month) approach the median disability-related social benefit (€379 per month), leaving families with little support for broader needs, and that caregivers who leave employment lose on average €889 per month in income.

51. The Committee recommends that the State Party collect and report disaggregated data on poverty among persons with disabilities and ensure that social protection measures adequately reflect the additional costs associated with disability; and amend its legislation to allow a person with disability to receive both, disability aid and an old age pension, at the same time.

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

52. The Committee notes that strategic litigation contributed to legislative improvements in electoral accessibility. The Committee remains seriously concerned that:

(a) The Electoral Code continues to prohibit persons declared to have no legal capacity in matters related to voting from exercising their right to vote;

(b) That election officials often lack expertise on accessibility and that the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in assessing polling-station accessibility is not systematically supported or funded;

(c) The level of participation of persons with disabilities in representational politics, including as candidates and elected officials, remains low, with no targeted measures in place to support their political participation and inclusion.

53. The Committee urges the State Party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, to:

(a) **Withdraw all restrictions on the right to vote and stand for election based on a declaration of removal of legal capacity, and ensure that all persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, can exercise their political rights on an equal basis with others;**

(b) **Train election officials on accessibility and ensure systematic, funded involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in assessing polling-station accessibility;**

(c) **Establish targeted measures to support and encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in representational politics, including as candidates, party members and elected officials.**

Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (art. 30)

54. The Committee welcomes the increase in cultural participation of persons with disabilities from 25.7 per cent in 2022 to 29.5 per cent in 2023, but is concerned that accessibility measures across museums, cultural and sporting venues remain uneven and are not yet subject to systematic assessment.

55. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations systematically assess and publish disaggregated data on the accessibility of cultural, sporting and recreational venues and continue to expand accessible-format cultural content for persons with all types of disability.

C. Specific obligations (arts. 31–33)

Statistics and data collection (art. 31)

56. The Committee welcomes the “Data Lab” project for municipalities towards improved data collection. The Committee also notes that the 2023 Law on Official Statistics and State Data Governance introduced new requirements for disability-related statistics, but is concerned that there is no comprehensive data system providing structured, disaggregated information on persons with disabilities; that municipalities generally lack accurate data on the number, type of disability and needs of residents with disabilities in their territories; and that organizations of persons with disabilities are not systematically included as data providers. The Committee is further concerned that:

(a) The implementation-monitoring studies conducted by the Agency for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ANTA) have been discontinued since 2024;

(b) The State Party does not use the Washington Group Short Set of Questions in data collection, and lacks a comprehensive Convention-monitoring framework, relying instead primarily on administrative data that do not adequately capture progress;

(c) That disability-related monitoring reports produced by the Agency for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are not published on a regular,

predictable schedule and are often issued in formats that are not accessible including through augmentative, easy-read and other forms of accessible communication.

57. **The Committee recommends that the State Party ensure appropriate, nationally consistent measures for the collection, implementation and public reporting of disaggregated data on the situation of persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, children with disabilities, lesbian, gay, queer, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, national minority persons with disabilities, migrant persons with disabilities, such as refugees, asylum-seekers and persons with disabilities under temporary protection, and persons with disabilities in institutions:**

(a) **Resume and regularly publish implementation-monitoring studies, in accessible, formats and on a predictable schedule;**

(b) **Adopt the Washington Group Short Set of Questions in data collection and develop a comprehensive Convention-monitoring framework based on structural, process and outcome indicators, going beyond administrative data;**

(c) **Develop a comprehensive, disaggregated data system on the rights of persons with disabilities, ensure municipalities have access to accurate, up-to-date information on residents with disabilities, formally include organizations of persons with disabilities as data contributors and validators, and ensure that disability-monitoring reports produced by the Agency for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are published in an accessible manner, including through augmentative, easy-read and other forms of accessible communication, on a regular, consistent schedule.**

International cooperation (art. 32)

58. The Committee welcomes measures taken to include a disability perspective in the State Party's international cooperation and in its response to persons with disabilities displaced by the war in Ukraine.

59. **The Committee recommends that the State Party continue to ensure the close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of its international development and humanitarian cooperation, including in support provided to persons with disabilities displaced by the war in Ukraine.**

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

60. The Committee welcomes the establishment, in 2019, of the Commission for the Monitoring of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson. The Committee notes, however, with grave concern that the Commission has in practice been left without the resources needed to function as intended.

61. **The Committee urges the State Party to ensure that the Commission for the Monitoring of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is provided with a level of funding, staffing and independence commensurate with its statutory mandate and with the Paris Principles, on a stable, multi-year basis, and ensure the continuous participation of a representative of the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson.**

IV. Follow-up

Dissemination of information

62. **The Committee emphasizes the importance of all the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. With regard to urgent measures that must be taken, the Committee draws particular attention to recommendations contained in paragraph 21, on equal recognition before the law (art.12) and paragraph 35 on living independently and being included in the community (art. 19).**

63. The Committee requests the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State Party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Government and Parliament (Seimas), officials in relevant ministries, local authorities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media.

64. The Committee requests the State Party to disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, and to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in Lithuanian and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats, including Easy Read, and to make them available on official websites.

65. The Committee strongly encourages the State Party to involve civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its next periodic report.

Next periodic report

66. The combined fourth to eighth reports are in principle due on 18 September 2040, under the simplified reporting procedure. The Committee will establish and communicate the exact due date of the combined periodic reports of the State Party in line with a future clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States Parties⁹ and following the adoption of a list of issues and questions prior to reporting for the State Party. The combined periodic reports should cover the entire period up to the time of their submission.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 79/165, para. 6.