The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, National Human Rights Institutions and United Nations agencies, departments and units and has the honour to refer to the decision of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities about the situation of persons with disabilities in the context of the aggression against Ukraine¹, within its international recognized borders, after 24 February 2022.

According to article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: “States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters”.

Based on articles 11, 4.3, and 38 (Relationship of the Committee with other bodies) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Committee’s Rules of Procedure, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requests all interested concerned parties to submit information in writing about the situation of children and adults with disabilities affected by the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation², including those who have fled to neighbouring countries seeking asylum or requesting international protection. The Committee would appreciate receiving information in writing before 10 August 2022.

Furthermore, the Committee invites all interested concerned parties to a private meeting on the same matter, to be held on Monday 15 August 2022 from 3 to 6 p.m. Geneva time, in Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

For further information, please contact the Secretary of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Mr. Jorge Araya, at jorge.araya@un.org (or at 022 917 91 06) or the Committee’s Administrative assistant, Mr. Robert Ouko, at robert.ouko@un.org (or at 022 917 97 03).

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all concerned parties the assurances of its highest consideration.

10 June 2022

¹ General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1, of 2 March 2022 (A/RES/ES-11/1)
² Human Rights Council Resolution 49/1, of 4 March 2022 (A/HRC/RES/49/1)