Hereby a group of disability rights *Inclusive Kazakhstan[[1]](#footnote-1)* NGO and activist network from Kazakhstan expresses its regards to the UN CRPD and submits the information below for deliberation of the Committee regarding the List of Issues prior to consideration of the Initial Report of Kazakhstan.

The issues below relate to Article 9 of the Convention.

1. **ACCESS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

In its report the official Kazakhstan claimed that in 2016, on average, 77.4% of all registered public buildings in the country were evaluated as accessible to people with disabilities. In some (e.g. Akmola, East Kazakhstan, Pavlodar) regions, this ratio was said to be as high as 99% and more. Yet, independent monitoring shows that neither then nor now is this true. This can be the result of the wrong indicators used to measure accessibility or of an overstatement by local authorities.

In order to clarify this situation, we would like to pose the following questions to the government of Kazakhstan:

1. What indicators and standards exactly were used in 2016 and are used now to assess accessibility of existing public buildings to people with disabilities?
2. Do the building accessibility indicators used in Kazakhstan account for all types of disability (sensory, physical, intellectual)?
3. Does the statistics used in the report show universal disability accessibility of public buildings or does it cover only certain types of disability, and If so, which and why?
4. What training manuals are used to inform the knowledge of state accessibility monitors if any?
5. **RESIDENTIAL ACCESS**

The government of Kazakhstan claims that Soviet-style apartment blocks and individual apartments in them are gradually getting adapted to suit the people with restricted mobility who live in them or these people can be offered to be relocated to accessible apartments. In practice, however, in only one known case in entire Kazakhstan a wheel-chaired woman has been able to move to another, more accessible, apartment. The government also states that should people with restricted mobility live in non-accessible buildings, they shall live no higher than the 2nd floor (next to the ground floor). Also, in practice, many people with physical disability and wheel-chair users continue residing in upper floors in non-accessible buildings with no elevators or other reasonable accommodation and with little prospect of moving to an accessible residence. They may not leave their apartments independently and some of them do not go out for months or years in a row.

In this regard, we would like to pose the following questions to the government of Kazakhstan:

1. What is the entire number of registered people with disabilities in need of accessible residences as of 2019?
2. How many people with disability live in fully accessible buildings or apartments?
3. How many wheel-chair users in Kazakhstan have been transferred to more accessible residences during 2017-2019 and in which cities?
4. How many apartments and in which cities have been remodeled during 2017-2019 to suit the needs of their disabled residents?
5. **GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER ACCESSIBILITY**

The government of Kazakhstan in its report argues that the State Architecture and Construction Inspectorate regularly initiates checks and identifies breaches by construction companies of regulatory requirements regarding disability accessibility of buildings under construction. The government also quotes certain numbers to prove that. However, as independent monitoring shows many recently built buildings do not meet disability accessibility requirements.

In this regard, we would like to pose the following question to the government of Kazakhstan:

1. How many buildings under construction, both public and resident, have undergone the state’s accessibility monitoring and assessment since 2017 in Almaty, Pavlodar, and Nur-Sultan per year, with breakdown by types of buildings and names of constructing companies, and with what result?
2. What did such assessments comprise of?
3. Which state bodies conducted then and conduct now these assessments?

Thank you.

1. The Inclusive Kazakhstan Network encompasses 23 NGOs and initiative groups from 19 cities of Kazakhstan (more information is available at <https://doskaz.kz/>). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)