

ALTERNATIVE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL RIGHTS
OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SRI LANKA
TO BE REVIEWED BY
THE COMMITTEE ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)

SUBMITTED TO: The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REVIEW OF THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

General Principles and Obligations (Article 05-30):

- Article 01: Purpose
- Article 02: Definitions
- Article 03: General Principles
- Article 04: General Obligations

Specific Rights (Article 05 & 08-30):

- Article 05: Equality and Non-discrimination
- Article 08: Awareness raising
- Article 09: Accessibility
- Article 11: Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies
- Article 12: Equal Recognition before the Law
- Article 13: Access to Justice
- Article 14: Liberty and Security of Person
- Article 15: Freedom from Torture or Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Article 16: Freedom from Exploitation, Violence and Abuse
- Article 17: Protecting the Integrity of the Person
- Article 18: Freedom of Movement and Nationality
- Article 19: Living Independently and Being Included in the Community
- Article 20: Personal mobility
- Article 21: Freedom of Expression and Opinion, and Access to Information
- Article 22: Respect for privacy
- Article 23: Respect for Home and the Family
- Article 24: Education
- Article 25: Health
- Article 26: Habitation and Rehabilitation
- Article 27: Work and employment
- Article 28: Adequate Standard of Living and Social Protection
- Article 29: Participation in political and public life
- Article 30: Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure and Sport

Specific Situations (Arts 06-07)

- Article 06: Women with Disabilities
- Article 07: Children with Disabilities

Specific Obligations (Arts 31-33)

- Article 31: Statistics and Data Collection
- Article 32: International Cooperation
- Article 33: National implementation and monitoring

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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| APSIG | Asia Pacific School on Internet Governance |
| CwD | Children with Disabilities |
| CRPD | Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| DCS | Department of Census and Statistics |
| DSS | Department of Social Services |
| GoSL | Government of Sri Lanka |
| HRCSL | Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka |
| ICTA | information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka |
| LKSIG | Lanka School on Internet Governance |
| MoE | Ministry of Education |
| MoH | Ministry of Health |
| M/SW | Ministry of Social Welfare |
| NCPD | National Council on Persons with Disabilities |
| NHRAP | National Human Rights Action Plan |
| NIMH | National Institute of Mental Health |
| NSPD | National Secretariat on Persons with Disabilities |
| OPD | Organization of Persons with Disabilities |
| PwD | Persons with Disabilities |
| UNCRPD | United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |
| WwD | Women with Disabilities |

Introduction

1. The Lanka School on Internet Governance (LKSIG) is a local representative of the Asia Pacific School on Internet Governance (APSIG) and was established to build capacity on Internet Governance among the Sri Lankan and Asia Pacific Internet Governance practitioners. The Lanka School on Internet Governance (LKSIG) is a local representative of the Asia Pacific School on Internet Governance (APSIG) and was established to build capacity on Internet Governance among the Sri Lankan and Asia Pacific Internet Governance practitioners. The founding members of the LKSIG team consist of professionals, representing the wider spectrum of stakeholders and various sectors.

2. The LKSIG is a nonprofit organization following multistakeholderism, and working towards raising awareness, contributing to digital inclusion, building capacity on Internet Governance, and promoting a better understanding of Internet governance-related matters among all segments of society and their respective communities. LKSIG conducted a session on Digital Access and Inclusion (BE SAFE) at the 2023 Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APRIGF), one of the key regional initiatives on Internet governance, in Brisbane, Australia in August 2023. LKSIG has successfully conducted two training programs for government officials of the Ministry of Agriculture on Internet Governance and Web Development in May 2023 in Colombo Sri Lanka and has partnered with Theekshana R and D, ICANN, and LK Domain Registry to celebrate Global Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2023 in Sri Lanka in March 2023 to spread UA awareness and to promote UA adoption among Sri Lankan citizens.

3. LKSIG has successfully concluded its training on Internet Governance and Digital Rights to empower individuals with disabilities to effectively advocate for their rights in the digital sphere in Colombo, Sri Lanka in December 2023 in collaboration with Internet Society and Internet Society Accessibility Standing Group. We are delighted to announce that this workshop has empowered individuals with disabilities to effectively advocate for their rights in the digital sphere. As a result of this training, a group of persons with diverse disabilities took the leadership to prepare the UNCRPD Shadow report on the theme “*Digital Rights of Persons with Disabilities*”.

4. As an integral part of the training, it has decided to gather information about the situation of digital rights of persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka and submit a thematic report on the context of digital rights of persons with disabilities to be considered during the 19 pre-sessional working group of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Prevalence of disability in Sri Lanka

3. The island nation of Sri Lanka with its diverse population, Persons with Disabilities (PWD) is a considerable part. Although reliable statistics are not available, in the year 2014, Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Health estimated that 10% of Sri Lanka's population has some form of disability. The census of population carried out by the Department of Census and Statistics in 2011 records 8.7%

of the total population as PWDs but significant concerns remain regarding the definition and criteria for identifying and capturing PWDs during the census.

4. The prevalence of disability in Sri Lanka is attributed to disabilities at birth, childhood injuries and trauma, road & other accidents, industrial injuries, disabilities caused due to unmanaged non-communicable diseases, civil war, and the aging population. In their report in 2019, the Asian Development Bank stated that Sri Lanka is ahead of other South Asian countries in demographic transition as it is aging relatively faster and it is said that by 2030, 22% of the total Sri Lankan population, or one in five persons, will be over 60 years of age and the proportion of older persons experiencing age-related disabilities is increasing at a rapid pace.

Social Exclusion and Marginalisation

5. One other factor that has a major bearing on systematic social exclusion and discriminatory practices is attitudinal barriers fuelled by the lack of awareness. It plays a major role in the stagnation of policies and regulations. They further frustrate the accessibility, communication, inclusivity, and participation of PWDs in different spheres such as health, education, employment, transportation, etc.

6. Marginalization is multiplied where inter-sectional ties operate, namely gender, ethnicity, geographical location, and social and economic status. For instance, PWDs residing in the estate sector in the central uplands, already amongst areas with the most entrenched poverty and exclusion, face extreme difficulties in accessing the services provided by the state due to low levels of literacy, and economic and social disadvantages.

7. Disability being a crosscutting issue warrants a multi-stakeholder consultative process in addressing development priorities. PWDs are the biggest single minority and the majority of PWDs are below the poverty line. This is mainly because their social and political participation is restricted to the systematic barriers which include structural, social, legal, and other policy barriers that are prominent within the sphere in Sri Lanka.

8. Persons with disabilities have been consistently marginalized in the Sri Lankan polity and society mainly due to the charity mind-set fuelled by religious and cultural influences. The dominant approach remains premised on charity and welfare, contrary to the obligations in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Attempts to introduce a rights-based approach through policy and legislative frameworks have remained largely rhetorical and not transformed into reality. The quality of services provided by the state for PWDs should be intensive, integrated, and include progressive support mechanisms to uphold their inherent dignity and autonomy.

9. PWDs have also been historically marginalized from decision-making processes and continue to face serious challenges in their participation and representation in such processes. Recent research indicates that in Sri Lanka, the difference in multi-dimensional poverty levels is higher in households with PWDs when compared with other households. This indicates inequality and injustice. A strong disability rights framework based on sound philosophical interpretations and provisions for generating inclusive policy and law reforms is essential.

Status of Accessibility in Information Communication and Digital Space in Sri Lanka

10. Sri Lanka Telecommunication Act No. 27 of 1996 provides for the protection of data and regulates the interception of telephone communications. According to Sections 53 and 54¹ of this Act, the interception of telecommunication transmissions and the disclosure of their contents is an offense subject to penalties including imprisonment.

11. The Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA), the national apex body on Information and Communication Technology has been implementing ICT-related Government policies and action plans as part of its mandate since its inception. National Digital Government/Governance Policy for Sri Lanka² and the Guidelines for Developing Government Websites - March 2022 (Version 4.0)³ is the latest version of the National Guidelines issued by the ICTA, which states accessibility as, a requirement of a Government website, and usability and accessibility standards under Technical standards.

12. The Sri Lankan Computer Crimes Act No. 24 of 2007 introduced a comprehensive legislative framework to protect computer users from unauthorized access to computers and unlawful interception of data.

13. Circular No SP/01/07 dated 04 March 2007 by the Presidential secretariat on the use of Unicode Compatible Fonts in the government is the only disability-friendly circular⁴ issued by the GoSL enabling the blind and visually impaired persons to use the screen reader software to access the content available in local languages within the digital space.

14. As a result of Sri Lanka's accession to the Marrakesh Treaty⁵ in October 2016, GoSL amended the Intellectual Property (Amendment) Act No 08 in January 2021 paving the way for the Blind and Visually Impaired Persons and for those who are print-disabled to have access to works of literature in audio and alternative formats.

International Standards in Digital Inclusion

15. (a). Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
- (b). ISO/IEC 40500:2012 (formerly ISO 9241-171)
- (c). ISO/IEC 24752:2008
- (d). Universal Design ISO 16473:2020

¹ <https://www.language.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Circular-Unicode-Standard-Mr.-Lalith-Weeratunga-March-2007.pdf>

² file:///E:/S-PK%20Official/1.%20PK%20Consultations/LKSIG/References/national-digital-government-and-governance-policy-for-sri-lanka_v-4.5_english.pdf

³ <https://www.icta.lk/icta-assets/uploads/2022/03/Guidelines-for-developing-Sri-Lanka-Government-Websites-4.0.pdf> Page 05 and page 10 (Last accessed on 15 January 2024)

⁴ <https://www.language.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Circular-Unicode-Standard-Mr.-Lalith-Weeratunga-March-2007.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.news.lk/news/world/item/14622-sri-lanka-accedes-to-the-marrakesh-treaty-to-increase-access-to-printed-materials-for-print-disabled-persons>

16. General Accessibility Guidelines:

- ISO/IEC 17485:2015: Accessibility management systems - Guidelines for providers of accessibility support services to persons with disabilities
- ISO/IEC 15489: Technical information and documentation - Guidelines for the drafting and presentation of user instructions
- ISO 9241: Ergonomics of human-system interaction - Part 110: Dialogue principles

17. Specific Equipment Accessibility:

- ISO/IEC 10779:2020: Information technology - Office equipment - Accessibility guidelines for older persons and persons with disabilities (covers office equipment like printers and copiers)
- ISO 11582: Assistive devices for blind and visually impaired persons - Specification and test methods for electronic braille displays (displays braille for blind users)
- ISO 17369: Assistive devices for blind and visually impaired persons - Tactile graphic display systems - Guidelines for test methods and technical specifications (provides accessibility for tactile graphics)

18. Digital Platform Accessibility:

- ISO/IEC 24752:2021: Information technology - Web browsers - Accessibility requirements (Establishes minimum accessibility requirements for web browsers)
- ISO/IEC 16071: Information technology - Telecommunications and information exchange between systems - Guidelines on the accessibility of information and communication technologies (ICT) equipment and services

19. Emerging Technologies:

- ISO/IEC TR 29125: Artificial intelligence - Trustworthiness - Part 8: Accessibility and inclusivity (provides guidance on making AI technologies inclusive for PWDs)
- ITU-T F.703:20.

REVIEW OF THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

01. Issues listed to be considered by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities before adaptation at the 19th Pre-Sessional working group in March 2024.

Article 01: Purpose

02. The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) initial report states that the present definition and the classification of disability are based on WHO functional classifications. However, in most instances, political leaders and senior state officers use derogatory terminology and language concerning persons with disabilities ignorantly disseminating inappropriate language.

03. In addition, usage of words such as persons with special needs, differently abled people and many other references made Instead of persons with disabilities by several political leaders and high ranking government officials have also raised concerns with regard to the use of correct terminology which is essential for ensuring a rights based approach.³ What are the steps taken by the GoSL to eliminate the use of derogatory terminology and language concerning persons with disabilities, including medical or charitable terminology, and replace them with terminology and language that is fully respectful of the human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities?

04. Are there revised classifications and categorizations of disability, based on functionality and in line with nationally and internationally accepted standards and what are the institutions responsible for formulating those classifications/categorizations?

Article 02: Definitions

05. Sri Lanka does not have an Inclusive Policy and in some instances has been using terms such as “Inclusive Education” and “Reasonable Accommodation” and “Universal Design” not knowing its proper definition. As a result, the state implementation officers use these terms with their own beliefs and definitions. For example, the education system in Sri Lanka conducts “Special Needs Education” under the disguise of Inclusive Education. This practice is detrimental to the upbringing and the advancement of the education of students living with disabilities.

Question 01: Please provide information about the measures taken to review and define the disability-sensitive language enabling UNCRPD terminology in line with its intended purpose?

Article 03: General Principles

Article 04: Obligations of the State

06. GoSL has enacted laws, and regulations and formulated a considerable amount of policies, strategies, and action plans. However, the status of Persons with Disabilities remains the same for a longer period. The issue lies at various levels in the implementation mainly due to a lack of political leadership, commitment, and ownership.

07. Inadequate legal provisions and frameworks addressing digital rights and internet governance are preventing the use of digital platforms and devices more often by persons with disabilities.

Question 02: What are the Government strategies and timeline for synergizing disability inclusion in the development process with the implementation of the SDG's?

Question 03: Please provide information about measures taken to present the public sector services in digital formats for Persons with disabilities?

Question 04: What are the strategies used for motivating and encouraging users with disabilities to increase the use of internet services, and facilities by introducing compulsory accessibility provisions in digital space and platform?

Article 8: Awareness-raising

08. One of the core elements of the mandate of the NCPD includes efforts to make the public aware of the conditions and needs of PwDs through various means.

Question 05: Elaborate on the initiative created by the stake mechanisms in the dissemination of messages and sensitization programs and training of government officers?

Question 06: What are the amounts of funds spent from the Disability Fund for Reasonable Accommodations in the past two years by the NSPD / NCPD?

Article 9: Accessibility

09. 2003 National Policy on Disability for Sri Lanka provides a comprehensive, progressive, and holistic framework in Sri Lanka, for equality and opportunity for people with disabilities. Advancement of information technology is emphasized under assistive devices and the use of information technology.

10. Disabled Persons (Accessibility) Regulations, No. 1 of 2006 published in the Government Gazette Extraordinary No 1467/15, where "access" has been defined. However, digital accessibility is not specified in the Gazette and as a result, the digital divide has broadened in a manner that has hindered the access to digital services for PWD such as accessible websites, applications, and online content while losing on a great opportunity to leverage digital signage for build environment accessibility as well.

Article 11: Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

12. Most of the emergency communication systems/alerts/alarms initiated during emergencies are not disseminated in accessible or alternative formats, thereby neglecting the majority of persons with disabilities, especially persons with hearing impairments. Digital technology could be used as a measure to mitigate this situation.

Article 13: Access to justice

Question 07: What are the measures adopted to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to legal assistance on an equal basis with others?

13. Access to justice for individuals with disabilities remains a significant challenge, primarily due to challenges related to physical access to courtrooms, limitations in providing evidence, and a lack of reasonable accommodations during court procedures. Barriers include the physical inaccessibility of courtrooms for persons with disabilities, and the inability to present evidence using alternative measures like sign language interpretation due to the insufficient availability of sign language interpreters in the country.

14. While there has been an increasing trend in using online and digital measures for court hearings to address case backlogs, these measures have not been sufficiently extended to cater to the needs of vulnerable communities, particularly persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities. These individuals encounter difficulties in providing testimony in a traditional courtroom setting due to challenges such as memory loss and other cognitive impairments. To overcome these challenges, there are suggested alternative approaches:

- **Recording of Prior Evidence:** A proposal to allow the recording of prior statements from individuals with intellectual disabilities, acknowledging the difficulties they face in testifying multiple times due to short-term memory loss. These recorded statements can then be considered valid evidence in court.
- **Online Testimony with Sign Language Interpreters:** Recommending the use of online platforms for court proceedings, ensuring the presence of sign language interpreters to facilitate the translation of testimony. This addresses the shortage of sign language interpreters in physical courtrooms, making the legal process more accessible.
- **Utilizing Prior Statements as Evidence in Chief:** Acknowledging the challenges faced by individuals with intellectual disabilities, the suggestion is to recognize prior recorded statements as evidence in chief. This acknowledges the difficulty these individuals may have in providing testimony multiple times.

Article 16: Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

15. Online platforms may contribute to the perpetuation of stereotypes for discriminatory practices and harassment targeting individuals with disabilities.

16. We call on the state party to take swift and progressive steps to address online discrimination against persons with disabilities. Improving the legal framework is crucial, particularly in areas related to privacy, hate speech, and online safety. Urgent action is needed to ensure equal and inclusive digital spaces for everyone.

Question 06: What legal measures have been taken by the Government to address digital discriminative content, online bullying, and hate speech targeted towards Persons with disabilities?

Article 19: Living Independently and Being Included in the Community

17. Persons living with psycho-social disabilities (PSD) in Sri Lanka face numerous obstacles in enjoying the benefits of digital inclusion, particularly when it comes to financial independence as enshrined in Article 19 of the UNCRPD. These challenges contribute to their social and economic marginalization, hindering their ability to participate fully in society.

18. Key Issues 01: Accessibility Barriers:

- Digital literacy gap: Many PSDs lack the necessary skills and confidence to navigate digital platforms and financial applications. Limited access to training and support further exacerbates this issue.
- Assistive technology limitations: Existing assistive technologies do not cater to the specific needs of PSDs, particularly those experiencing cognitive difficulties.
- Lack of accessible interfaces: Many digital banking platforms and mobile apps lack user-friendly interfaces and accessible features, making them difficult for all PWD to use independently.
- Accessibility of statements made to the police and case records. The submissions and complaints tendered to law enforcement agencies are predominantly handwritten, thereby presenting challenges for individuals with disabilities in providing independent statements to said agencies. Moreover, the veracity of such statements is subject to variability. Furthermore, the records maintained by the court lack accessibility in formats conducive to individuals with disabilities, thereby rendering it onerous for litigants and legal practitioners possessing disabilities to independently access case records.

19. Key Issues 02: Stigma and discrimination:

- Negative societal perceptions: Stigma surrounding PSDs often leads to financial institutions and service providers being hesitant to engage with them or offer them necessary support.
- Lack of awareness: Financial institutions and service providers often lack awareness of the specific needs and challenges faced by PWD, impacting their ability to design and deliver inclusive financial services.

19. Key Issues 03: Inefficient cash-less transaction options:

- Limited availability of accessible QR payment systems: The current reliance on smartphone-based QR payments excludes PWD who do not have access to or be comfortable using smartphones.

- Lack of alternative accessible cashless options: Limited availability of accessible and secure alternative cashless transaction options, such as smart cards or personalized keypads, leaves PSDs dependent on cash, which can be insecure and inconvenient.
20. Key Issues 04: Insufficient legal and regulatory frameworks:
- Inadequate disability-inclusive financial regulations: Existing financial regulations do not adequately address the specific needs of PWD, resulting in a lack of accessibility and protection.
 - Weak enforcement of existing accessibility laws: Insufficient enforcement of existing disability rights laws and accessibility standards further hinders progress toward financial inclusion for PSDs.

Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

21. Most of the Government websites are not accessible according to the W3CGA Standards.
22. In response to the explanations stated in the state party report, please provide the following information.

- Question 10: Legislative and other measures adopted to ensure that information provided to the general public is also available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of impairments promptly and without additional cost;
- Question 11: Legislative and other measures adopted to ensure that private entities providing services to the general public and mass media providing information, including through the Internet, do so in accessible forms and formats for all persons with disabilities, including by ensuring the use of and compliance with the latest Web Accessibility Initiative standards;
- Question 12: Measures adopted to recognize sign language(s) as official language(s); and measures adopted, including budget allocations, to promote the learning of sign language, the availability of qualified sign language interpreters, and the use of sign language in all settings, in particular in education, in the workplace and community settings;
- Question 13: The percentage of public websites that are compliant with the latest Web Content Accessibility Guidelines;
- Question 14: The percentage of first-time (live) broadcasts (hours) and percentage of repeat broadcasts (hours) on public service television channels, private channels, and web platforms that are provided with subtitles/captioning/quality sign language interpretation/quality audio-description.

Article 22: Respect for privacy

23. Insufficient safeguards to protect the privacy of persons with disabilities in the digital space are insufficient. This is mainly experienced due to a lack of awareness about privacy settings and potential risks associated with online activities.

Question 15: What are the measures adopted, including appropriate and accessible complaint mechanisms and procedures, in case of arbitrary and/or unlawful interference with the right to privacy of persons with disabilities and effective and accessible remedies in cases of violations of the right to privacy?

Question 16: What are the measures adopted to ensure that information on sexual and reproductive health services is provided to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and respecting their privacy, and measures adopted to ensure effective access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services that are gender- and age-appropriate?

Article 24 - Education

24. Despite significant investments in digital infrastructure and learning resources, a sizeable portion of Sri Lankan schools catering to students requiring disabilities-specific equipment and internet access report low utilization by students with disabilities.

Question 17: What are the potential underlying reasons identified by GOSL for this underutilization?

Question 18: What targeted interventions of GOSL could be implemented to bridge the gap between resource availability and actual accessibility, fulfilling the objectives of Article 24 and promoting digital inclusion for all students?

Article 25 - Health

25. State party should adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access on an equal basis with others to affordable, accessible, quality and culturally sensitive health services, including assistive and adaptive technology, in private and public settings, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and mental health and psychosocial support.

26. Further, measures to ensure that all information on health-care services, intervention and treatments, and initiatives of health promotion, including general public health campaigns should be accessible for persons with disabilities, in various formats.

Question 19: In light of Article 25 of the UNCRPD, outlining accessibility and affordability of healthcare for persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and considering measures adopted in Sri Lankan healthcare:

(a) To what extent do current digital health platforms and communication channels (including tele-health, online appointment booking, and health information websites) address the diverse needs of PWDs with regards to:

- Accessibility: Are platforms compatible with assistive technologies like screen readers, adjustable fonts, and alternative input methods? Does information cater to various types of disability (visual, auditory, cognitive)?
- Affordability: Are internet-based healthcare and tele-health readily available in rural areas where PWDs face greater accessibility challenges?

Article 26 - Habilitation and rehabilitation

27. Evidently, very limited involvement of persons with disabilities in the design and development of digital technologies and a lack of incentives for the private sector to invest in inclusive design practices.

Question 20: What are the measures adopted to promote the availability, knowledge, and use of assistive devices, mobility aids, and modern technologies, designed for persons with disabilities concerning habilitation and rehabilitation, including through international cooperation?

Question 21: What are the measures adopted to reduce the cost of assistive devices or provide at a subsidized rate?

Question 22: Are there any plans or initiatives to provide tax benefits to local manufacturers of assistive devices for digital inclusion?

Article 27 - Work and employment

26. The National Budget has allocated 38 million for 2018 for inclusive vocational training in diverse vocational study streams such as IT, electronics, and mechanics.

27. 2003 National Policy on Disability for Sri Lanka⁶ states that *“The field of Information Technology also opens a vast range of employment opportunities and this will be exploited to increase opportunities for people who have disability in open employment. For those whose disability makes it more convenient for them to work at home, contract work and other means will be facilitated to create work opportunities.”* However, Persons with Disabilities of view that they have very limited opportunities for persons with disabilities in the digital job market and have experienced discrimination and accessibility barriers in online job application processes.

Question 23: What are the challenges faced in delivering Inclusive Vocational, specifically in providing training materials in alternative formats?

Question 24: What are the outcomes of National Budget Allocation on IT & Electronics and how many persons with disabilities are engaged successfully in IT /Electronic related vocations?

Question 25: What is the prevalence of Persons with Disabilities engaged in IT/ICT or electronic-related job streams? Are there any high-demand job streams for persons with disabilities other than ICT or in the Digital space?

Article 29: Participation in political and public life

28. There are considerable barriers to political participation and public life of persons with disabilities due to the omission of the use of technology. The voting process is one of the critical areas where digital space and technology could resolve many challenges faced by the disabled.

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Question 26: How much time would GoSL require to invest in digital or online voting platforms where a considerable amount of funds and manpower could reduce the electoral process?

Question 27: What are the strategies adopted for inclusive elections?

Question 28: What steps would be taken to increase participation in online forums and discussions?

ARTICLE 31: Statistics and Data Collection

Question 29. What are the measures adopted and implemented to promote research, development and standardization of new technologies, including information and communications technology, based on the concept of “universal design” in relation to, goods, services, equipment and facilities, to ensure their availability, the minimum possible adaptation and the least cost to persons with disabilities, given their specific requirements?

ARTICLE 32: International Cooperation

Question 30 Who are the major international financial & technical contributors towards disability support, service delivery, and mainstream disability and development programs?

ARTICLE 33: National Implementation and Monitoring

Question 31: As per the NHRAP 2017 – 2021, what are;
a. The outcome of the Consultations with stakeholders in government and civil society regarding other actions that can be taken to facilitate PwDs?
b. Merits and demerits of the establishment of a disability portal website that acts as a clearinghouse of information?

Question 32: What are the Institutional arrangements made by HRCSL, the Constitutional Council, and Parliament for the monitoring and evaluation of disability rights in relation to the implementation of digital rights as per the UNCRPD Article 33(2)?

Question 33: What are the strategies adopted for implementation of the National Policy on Disability, which is to be reviewed and revised through consultations with stakeholder groups in government and civil society, and outcomes of those reviews specifically about the GoSL obligation towards creating accessible and friendly use of digital space by persons with disabilities?

Question 34: What is the status and magnitude of budget allocations for the last 04 years by Central and Provincial Ministries implementing disability services and programs for PwDs to ensure the realization of their rights?

Question 35: What is the status of the new Disability Rights Act (or Bill) reviewed and revised together with all stakeholders to ensure that disability legislation is consistent with the principles of UNCRPD, specifically, disability-inclusive policies and the rights-based approach?

Question 36: What are the measures adopted to designate one or more focal points properly placed within the government structure and with sufficient authority for ensuring that disability is mainstreamed across all policies and programs, and a list of the ministry or ministries that have been appointed as the focal points?

(a) What are the Measures adopted to give due consideration to the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism within the government structure to facilitate related action in digital technology and infrastructure sectors and at different levels, and the ministry or departments that take part in the coordination mechanism?

Question 35: What are the Gender- and age-sensitive measures adopted to fully involve civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in the monitoring process of the implementation of the digital inclusion aspects of Convention?

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