



Organisation Mondiale des Personnes Handicapées Organización Mundial de Personas con Discapacidad Disabled Peoples' International Europe

President Office
45, rue Riquet, Appt. 664
75019 Paris France
+33(0)612 920 053
chairperson@dpi-europe.org

Ensuring Global Representation and Accessibility for COSP19 23 January 2026

Zagreb – Berlin – Brussels – Budapest – Napoli – Paris

Condemnation of discriminatory barriers and a call for the relocation of the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP19).

To the Secretariat of the United Nations, the Bureau of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, and the DPI World Council.

Preamble

RECALLING that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is built on the principles of full and effective participation and inclusion in society;

NOTING WITH GRAVE CONCERN that the current administrative and customs environment in the United States, specifically the expanded travel bans and the 2025 Health/Public Charge Directives, creates an insurmountable barrier for delegates from the Global South and persons with significant support needs;

RECOGNIZING that a Conference of States Parties held in a venue that is inaccessible to a significant portion of its civil society participants ceases to be a global forum and becomes an exclusionary event;

.../...



Organisation Mondiale des Personnes Handicapées Organización Mundial de Personas con Discapacidad Disabled Peoples' International Europe

President Office
45, rue Riquet, Appt. 664
75019 Paris France
+33(0)612 920 053
chairperson@dpi-europe.org

Motion

DPI Europe hereby moves that the following actions be taken:

1. **Condemnation of Barriers:** DPI Europe formally condemns the restrictive visa and customs measures currently imposed by the United States administration. These measures discriminate against persons with disabilities based on health status and nationality, directly violating the spirit of Article 40 of the CRPD and the UN Headquarters Agreement.
2. **Recognition of Exclusion:** We assert that the “Public Charge” criteria, which evaluate the “medical cost” of a delegate's disability as a reason for visa denial, is a profound violation of human dignity and an act of systemic ableism.
3. **Support for Relocation:** DPI Europe calls upon the United Nations Secretary-General and the COSP Bureau to relocate the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties (June 2026) to a city where the UN and its agencies can guarantee the unfettered participation of all accredited delegates.
4. **Proposed Venues:** We specifically recommend Geneva, Vienna, or Paris as alternate hosts. These cities house major UN headquarters or agencies (OHCHR, UNOV, UNESCO) and operate within visa frameworks that -while still requiring scrutiny- do not currently weaponize a person's disability as a ground for exclusion.
5. **Interim Measures:** Should relocation not be immediately achieved, DPI Europe demands that the UN grant “Hybrid Speaking Rights” to all delegates denied visas, ensuring that a video intervention carries the same procedural weight as an in-person statement. However, it is important to recognize that this measure cannot be considered a substitute for personal participation in the future, as it does not guarantee full participation for everyone.
6. **“Nothing About Us Without Us”** is not merely a slogan; it is a procedural requirement. If the global community of persons with disabilities cannot reach the table, the table must be moved to the community.