

**THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES**

**Bekhruz Ergashov**

Lecturer, Asia International University  
Email: [bekerg099@gmail.com](mailto:bekerg099@gmail.com) Tel: +998 99 743 25 47

**Annotation:** In the final decades of the new era, in which human rights have become superior to any other concept, it would not be an exaggeration to state that all types of legal norms have once again reinforced the honor, dignity, freedom, and all political and social rights of the individual. A person does not differ from other individuals in any respect; regardless of physical condition, status, social origin, lineage, or other factors, all individuals possess equal rights and obligations. Persons with disabilities are also consistently protected in accordance with universal human rights standards. Special conditions and various privileges exist for them, and international legal norms and international organizations provide protection and support. This article provides information on the establishment and main forms of activity of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Keywords:** United Nations, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, human rights, persons with disabilities.

Before delving deeper into this topic, it is important to pay attention to several key aspects. In today's world, it is no secret that globalization affects human rights in various ways. Both positive and negative changes are ultimately centered on the interests of the invaluable being known as the human person. All universal organizations, international funds, and global institutions are united around a single objective, which is the protection and guarantee of human rights. World history demonstrates that humanity has endured numerous wars. As a result of ruthless conflicts and mass destruction, millions of people lost their lives, while millions of others acquired various degrees of disability. For instance, the two world wars left countless individuals permanently disabled. As a consequence of such tragedies, the United Nations intensified its efforts in this area. It would not be incorrect to say that society has adopted an individualized approach toward all persons. Daily reforms are implemented in various fields to regulate social relations and provide relief to individuals. The rights of children, women, migrants, and their family members have all received increased attention. In the current volatile global political environment, the need to protect human rights and freedoms is more crucial than ever. The international community is undertaking extensive measures to rehabilitate persons with physical or mental impairments, improve their communication with others, and ensure the international protection of their rights. Nearly all countries have established special conditions and adopted secondary legislation for persons with disabilities. Encouragingly, many persons with disabilities now work on an equal basis with others in both public and private sectors. Turning directly to the activities and structure of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it should be noted that this Committee is one of the UN treaty bodies responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 December 2006, opened for signature in March 2007, and entered into force in May 2008. The activities of the Committee are intrinsically linked to this Convention.

The adoption of the Convention was necessary because the international community lacked a comprehensive and binding universal system for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. Although certain international instruments addressed these issues—such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1975 Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons—the latter was not legally binding, despite representing an important milestone in promoting respect and social integration.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities monitors the uniform and effective implementation of the Convention's provisions. It reviews reports submitted by States Parties and provides concluding observations and recommendations. In essence, the Committee serves as a supervisory body overseeing compliance with the Convention. The Committee commenced its activities in 2008, coinciding with the Convention's entry into force.

The Committee consists of 18 independent experts who are elected through a specific nomination and voting process. Any State Party may nominate a candidate. Elections are held at the Conference of States Parties, with the participation of at least two-thirds of ratifying states. Candidates must possess high moral character, recognized expertise in disability rights, independence from government influence, and proficiency in at least one official UN language. Being a person with a disability is considered an advantage. Experts are elected for a four-year term and may be re-elected once. The Committee ensures balanced representation in terms of gender, geographical regions, legal systems, and types of disabilities. Experts serve in their personal capacity rather than as representatives of their states, which guarantees their independence. All expenses related to their activities are covered by the United Nations. The Committee requires States Parties to submit an initial report two years after ratification and subsequent reports every four years. It reviews these reports and issues recommendations. If a State has ratified the Optional Protocol, individuals may submit complaints alleging violations of their rights. The Optional Protocol is voluntary and serves as a supplementary agreement to the Convention. The Committee may also issue General Comments to clarify the interpretation of Convention provisions. It cooperates closely with States Parties and other international human rights bodies. The Committee is headquartered in Geneva and is supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). It convenes two regular sessions annually, with the possibility of additional sessions if necessary. If credible information indicates serious or systematic violations of the Convention by a State Party that has ratified the Optional Protocol, the Committee may initiate an inquiry. Uzbekistan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in June 2021, thereby demonstrating its commitment to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring their full integration into society.

Between 2010 and 2020, significant legislative reforms were undertaken in many States Parties. Approximately 71% of constitutions now prohibit discrimination based on disability and recognize the rights to education and employment for persons with disabilities. Inclusive education expanded considerably, and overall conditions for persons with disabilities improved globally. In conclusion, for any legal norm to function effectively, continuous monitoring and institutional oversight are essential. The establishment of the Committee ensured systematic supervision of the Convention's implementation. As a result of this effective mechanism, the rights of individuals who had long suffered from discrimination have been restored, providing hope and dignity to millions. Currently, 193 countries have ratified the Convention. It is proposed to further increase this number and to shorten the reporting cycle from four years to one year to enhance international monitoring. Protecting the rights and interests of persons with

disabilities and facilitating their reintegration into society should remain a shared goal of the international community and international law. The Convention and the Committee continue to play a vital role in achieving this objective.

**References.**

1. Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan
2. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
3. Bantekas, I., Stein, M. A., & Anastasiou, D. *The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: A Commentary*. Oxford Academic.
4. Stein, M. A., & Lord, J. E. *The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (2010). ResearchGate.
5. Kayess, R., & French, P. “Out of Darkness into Light? Introducing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” *Human Rights Law Review*, Vol. 8(1), 2008.
6. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,” No. O’RQ-641, 15 October 2020.