

Annex IV List of responsibilities of the Parliamentary Secretary for Persons with a Disability

- Advising Government, policymakers and programme planners on the development of policies, legislation, programmes and projects with respect to their impact on people with disabilities;
- Coordinating the activities of various ministries and departments on human rights and disability;
- Coordinating activities on human rights and disability at all levels of government;
- Revising strategies and policies to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are respected;
- Coordinating the drafting, revision or amendment of relevant legislation, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders;
- Raising awareness about the UN CRPD and its Optional Protocol, which Malta also ratified, within Government, among all stakeholders and together with them, including with CRPD, and in society;
- Ensuring that the UN CRPD and its Optional Protocol are made understandable and accessible to all, both through translation into appropriate formats, as well as through efforts to ensure the adoption of relevant policies and legislation enshrining relevant rights and mechanisms for attaining such;
- Establishing an action plan for implementation of the UN CRPD, through the promulgation of a National Disability Strategy, being launched in 2018 following a Public Consultation and further discussions with relevant stakeholders;
- Coordinating the preparation of the State’s periodic reports, with Malta’s first such report being submitted in 2014, and of the subsequent Country Review process before the UN CRPD Committee, which Malta is first undertaking in 2018;
- Raising awareness on disability-related issues and the rights of persons with disabilities among the public, in coordination with the Commission on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), and all relevant stakeholders, particularly DPOs (Disabled Persons’ Organisations) and other civil society actors;

- Building capacity within Government on disability-related issues, including through the legal obligation to ensure representation of persons with disabilities on all principal Government boards;
- Ensuring and coordinating the collection of data and statistics for effective policy programming and evaluation of implementation. Towards this end, coordination efforts are under way with the National Statistics Office (NSO), CRPD, the Department of Social Security, JobsPlus (the national employment agency) and the Directorate for Health Information Research within the Ministry of Health. These discussions aim to create a National Disability Database, as well as methods of Disability Data Collection and Reporting. International experts and stakeholders are also being consulted;
- Ensuring that persons with disabilities participate in the development of policies and laws that affect them, in line with Articles 4(3) and 33(3) of the UN CRPD, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Encouraging persons with disabilities to participate in organizations and civil society, and encouraging the creation of organizations of persons with disabilities, also in line with the international frameworks just mentioned.