



Organization of American States

Secretariat for Legal Affairs

Department of Special Legal Programs

Technical Secretariat monitoring the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas of the  
Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

## **Progress Report on the Implementation of the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-20016)**

October 2009

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## INTRODUCTION

The Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) adopted in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic with the theme "Equality, Dignity, and Participation", AG / DEC. 50 (XXXVI-O/06), with the aim of achieving recognition and full exercise of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and their right to participate fully in economic, social, cultural and political matters, as well as in the development of their societies, without discrimination and on equality with others. In the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) adopted in Panama AG / RES .2339 (XXXVII O / 07), Member States pledged to undertake programs, plans and actions to achieve inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities in all areas of society as to carry out social, political, economic, cultural and developmental opportunities aimed at achieving, and to promoting effective measures to prevent further disabilities and access for people with disabilities to services and rehabilitation programs on an equal basis with others.

The development of this initiative has not been easy and has been fraught with complexities. It has required an extensive process of technical and political consultation in the design and implementation of all policies, programs and projects of the governments of the respective countries. At 3 years of this commitment, it is necessary to measure progress, transparent to society as a whole to identify the results achieved. According to the resolution, coordinating a program of implementation and monitoring is carried out by the Technical Secretariat (SEDISCAP), based in Panama City and under the direction of The Department of Special Legal Programs of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs. This status report will be submitted to the Permanent Council who in turn will raise the awareness and consideration of the OAS General Assembly.

For this reason we ask to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the resolution, according to the matrix below.

## MATRIX FOR THE PROGRESS REPORT PREPARATION

### *Field 1 - Society Awareness*

**Objective** - To promote the recognition of all rights of persons with disabilities, protect their dignity, their proper recovery and removal of all forms of discrimination, cultural, outlook and other measures that prevent their development and full and effective inclusion in society.

- Education and outreach.

\*El presente Documento no modifica el contenido de la Resolución AG\*/RES 2339 (XXXVII-O/07)

*Specific Objective 1* - To promote and to make society more sensible about the actual and potential contributions to the general welfare, and Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<p><b>Activity 1.</b> Create and strengthen a culture of positive appreciation of human potential, self-determination and individual independence, knowledge, merits, abilities and contributions to society of people with disabilities, promoting respect and protection of their dignity and their rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual public forums such as <i>Disability Awareness Week</i>;</li> <li>• Sporting Competition such as: <i>Special Olympics and Paralympics both locally and internationally</i>;</li> <li>• Recognition of Awards to private entities that contribute to the employment of Persons With Disabilities (PWD);</li> <li>• Talent Expo and Exhibition – showcase the achievements of PWD.</li> </ul>	<p>90% of population are aware to some extent of the activities or achievements of PWD's;</p>	<p>Start date: 1973 End date: Ongoing</p>
<p>Activity 2. Incorporate the subject of people with disabilities in educational texts, images of these texts and curricula across the board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Booklet developed on "<i>Dos and Don'ts on how to treat Persons with Disabilities;</i>"</li> </ul>	<p>5,000 copies distributed island wide.</p>	<p>Start date: 2007 End date: Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Activity 3.</b> Promote the development of ongoing sensitization, awareness and training aimed at public officials in all government branches, as well as the private sector, with emphasis on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, promoting the elimination of terms and cultural practices that involve deep-seated prejudices, stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes against persons with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Ministry of Labour &amp; Social Security has been sensitizing the relevant government bodies regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Adherence to the UN Convention on the Rights and Dignity of PWD;</i></li> <li>-<i>Implementation of the Vision 20/30;</i></li> <li>- <i>Disability Sub Sector Plan;</i></li> <li>- <i>Preparation for the introduction of the National Disability Act;</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>-</p>	<p>Start date: 2008</p>

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<p><b>Activity 4.</b> Incorporate policies to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in national mechanisms or systems of promotion and protection of human rights that could include the creation of Ombudsmen for Persons with Disabilities or similar entities in countries that do not exist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Disability Policy will be legally enforceable with the passage of the National Disability Act which is currently being developed.</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 2005</p>
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**Specific Objective 2** - Develop and maintain public awareness campaigns concerning persons with disabilities

Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<p><b>Activity 5.</b> Spreading a culture of positive appreciation in the media, considering the inclusion of the participation of people with disabilities in the media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing interviews/features with media houses on the achievements and challenges of PWD;</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 1973</p>
<p><b>Activity 6.</b> Promote the concept of social responsibility and inclusive development in all spheres of society, respecting diversity and promoting equal opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing public education in schools and organization promoting inclusion of PWD in daily life.</li> </ul>	<p>Administer over 10,000 sessions to date</p>	<p>Start date: 1995</p>
<p><b>Activity 7.</b> Integrate in all advertising or campaigns those practices in which the government comprehensively promotes the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Awareness Subcommittee was recently formed to develop strategies on how to promote social inclusion for PWD.</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 2008</p>

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<p><b>Activity 8.</b> Develop awareness programs and training on universal design, targeting public and private sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inter-Regional Ministerial Program developed the “Kingston Accord” with the aim of promoting best practices in education, vocational training, employment, accommodation, communications, housing and accessibility, political and civil rights, family life, culture and recreation and sports.</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 2004 End date: Ongoing</p>
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- Support role of civil society

Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<p><b>Activity 9.</b> Promoting social networking or community support groups or volunteer to promote the recognition and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their full and effective participation in society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervention of private sector entities/NGOs in providing funding, materials, advocacy and human resources for PWD.</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 1973</p>
<p><b>Activity 10.</b> Promote the formation of civil society organizations that include the participation of people with disabilities and to promote and foster their dignity and rights and, where appropriate, strengthen existing ones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing interactions with service clubs, churches and community association to sensitize/remind them on the rights and dignity of PWD.</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 1973</p>

### **Field 2 - Promotion and Health Access**

**Objective** - Aimed to expand, improve and ensure access for people with disabilities to health services on an equal basis with others. Also to promote scientific and technological research related to preventable disability prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

- Promotion and protection of health and disability prevention

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Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<b>Activity 11.</b> Ensure access for people with disabilities to the services of physical and mental health, on equal terms with others, with particular attention to their special needs because of their disabilities, the environment possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All public hospitals and major health centres are accessible by PWD;</li> </ul>	100%	-
<b>Activity 12.</b> Encourage the adoption of preventive measures, early detection and intervention in cases of disabling diseases, prevention of accidents and preventable risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging antenatal visit to health centres/clinics for pregnant women;</li> <li>Immunization of children to prevent diseases (such as poliomyelitis, measles, etc).</li> <li>Scheduling postnatal care visits for mother and child;</li> <li>Ongoing public education safety campaign for road users as well as the industrial sector.</li> </ul>		Start date: 1962
<b>Activity 13.</b> The Promotion and dissemination of scientific and epidemiological research aimed at discovering the causes of disabilities, possible solutions and prevention of disabling diseases and injuries and to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing research and public education on the causes of disabilities, possible solutions and preventive measures.</li> </ul>		
<b>Activity 14.</b> Promoting preconception care, prenatal care and comprehensive health services, including information and appropriate nutrition for pregnant women and children less than three years old, encouraging breastfeeding, given the disabilities that can generate risk prenatal and birth and the inadequate development of early childhood, with special emphasis on rural and indigenous areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging antenatal visit to health centres/clinics for pregnant women;</li> <li>Immunization of children to prevent diseases (such as poliomyelitis, measles, etc).</li> <li>Scheduling postnatal care visits for mother and child;</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<b>Activity 15.</b> Implementation of plans and free mass vaccination to prevent diseases that causes disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>		

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<b>Activity 16.</b> Provide people with disabilities with health care and free or affordable, the same variety and quality than those provided to others, even in the field of sexual and reproductive health, and public health programs aimed at the general population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free health care has been provided to all groups including PWD since 2008.</li> </ul>		Start date: April 2008.
<b>Activity 17.</b> Promote voluntary screening for transmissible diseases, diabetes, hypertension and transmissible infections, including sexually transmitted diseases in order to prevent disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	-	-
<b>Activity 18.</b> Prevent, prohibit and punish mistreatment, sexual abuse and exploitation, especially in the context of the family, persons with disabilities, particularly children and women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Policy for Persons With Disabilities addresses the rights of PWD to engage in normal sexual activities.</li> <li>Child Care and Protection Act and Offences against the Persons Act protects against the mistreatment and exploitation of PWD.</li> </ul>	-	-
<b>Activity 19.</b> Promote the establishment of health care facilities with equipment to enable access, examination and appropriate treatment of persons with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All public hospitals and major health centres are accessible by PWD;</li> </ul>	-	-
<b>Activity 20.</b> Design, implement and deliver policies and standards of health and safety in workplaces to prevent or reduce the risk of accidents, including adaptation of workplaces to prevent occupational disabilities and diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Health and Safety Unit within the Ministry of Labour &amp; Social Security currently monitors adherence of established safety standards in the workplace.</li> </ul>	-	-
<b>Activity 21.</b> Proceed to the identification and clearance of landmines and other unexploded ordnance in territories where there was armed conflict to prevent disabling accidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable</li> </ul>	-	-
<b>Activity 22.</b> Ensure proper and timely medical care, physical and mental quality for persons with disabilities, taking into consideration the age, and provide, free or affordable treatments and medicines needed to overcome the disease or health condition control and prevent deterioration of the person or the worsening of disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	-	-
<b>Activity 23.</b> Design and implement educational prevention strategies that address all determinants of disabilities and promote healthy lifestyles for people with disabilities at all levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	-	-

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<p><b>Activity 24.</b> Implement driver education programs and the consequences of traffic accidents to prevent possible disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing public sensitization programmes through the various media;</li> <li>• Parish level competition with award given to the top parish recording the lowest number of road fatalities;</li> <li>• Ensuring that road users abide by the “Road Code”.</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 2009</p>
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**- Rehabilitation**

<p><b>Activity Description - Program</b></p>	<p><b>Description of Activities in the Country</b></p>	<p><b>Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number</b></p>	<p><b>Start Date / End Date</b></p>
<p><b>Activity 25.</b> Promote strategies of community based rehabilitation services with emphasis on primary health care, integrated health system and tailored to the particularities of each country, and with the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in its design and execution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Services for Children with Disabilities (RSCD) located in St. Elizabeth, Trelawny, Westmoreland, Hanover, St. Ann and St. Thomas;</li> <li>• 3Ds (Dedicated to the Development of the Disabled) Project located in St. Catherine, St. Mary and Manchester.</li> <li>• Early Stimulation Programme located in St. Catherine, Portland and Kingston and St. Andrew;</li> <li>• Clarendon Group located in Clarendon</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 1975</p>
<p><b>Activity 26.</b> Strengthen existing rehabilitation services, so that all people with disabilities have access to rehabilitation services they need, as close as possible to their place of residence, even in rural areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing rehabilitation services are being administered island wide to assist PWD;</li> <li>• A plan has been developed that will strengthen rehabilitative services island wide over the next 36 months</li> </ul>	<p>10% benefit from this intervention</p>	<p>Start date: 1973</p> <p>Start date: April 2010</p>

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<p><b>Activity 27.</b> Promote the appropriate training of professional and technical staff for the comprehensive care of physical motor disabilities, sensory, intellectual and psychosocial.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physiotherapists are being trained on an ongoing basis;</li> <li>• There are no courses offered in Jamaica for specialization in speech and occupational therapy.</li> </ul>	<p>Approx. 40 students are trained per year.</p>	<p>Start date: 2005 graduates who completed Degree Programme in Physiotherapy.</p>
<p><b>Activity 28.</b> Promote the development of specific training programs and training in production and supply in the national teams of technical and biomechanics, and the participation of persons with disabilities in those programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There are no training programs in place at the moment in this area.</b></li> </ul>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p><b>Activity 29.</b> Promoting, in addition to medical rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation and survival strategies in the context of community rehabilitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals administer medical rehabilitation on a limited basis;</li> <li>• Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and Government entities administer vocational rehabilitation on a limited basis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &lt;1%</li> <li>• &lt;1%</li> </ul>	<p>Start date: 1950s Start date: 1950s</p>
<p><b>Activity 30.</b> Take steps to establish inter-sectoral commitments and programs that link actions to achieve the comprehensive rehabilitation of the disabled since childhood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the Inter-Ministerial Committee (currently chaired by the Ministry of Labour &amp; Social Security) coordination with the Ministries of Education and Health and the Planning Institute of Jamaica are developing a working protocol to achieve the comprehensive rehabilitation from birth to adulthood.</li> </ul>	<p>-</p>	<p>Start date: 2008</p>

**Field 3- Education**

**Objective** - To ensure and guarantee persons with disabilities the access, on an equal basis, with others and without discrimination, to establish inclusive education and quality, including their entry, stay and progress in the educational system, to facilitate their integration into production in all areas of society.

Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<p><b>Activity 31.</b> Promote the inclusion of children and adolescents with disabilities and special educational needs in mainstream schools, in an integrated environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with special needs are able to sit national exams such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <i>Readiness Profile</i></li> <li>ii) <i>Diagnostic</i></li> <li>iii) <i>Literacy</i></li> <li>iv) <i>Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) and;</i></li> <li>v) <i>Grade Nine Achievement Test (GNAT)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Children with special needs who are successful in GSAT &amp; GNAT are placed in mainstream high schools based on nature and severity of their disabilities;</li> </ul>	30+	

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<p><b>Activity 32.</b> Ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on grounds of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from free and essential primary education or secondary education on grounds of disability. Similarly, to promote access for disabled students to technical education, higher and vocational. .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers are trained in institutions to equip them in working with children with special needs. Institutions involved in these training programs include: Sam Sharpe Teachers College and the Mico University.</li> <li>• All children with special needs are eligible to be enrolled in public schools at no cost.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 33.</b> Ensure that persons with disabilities have general access to higher education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States shall ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for people with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government has put in place special systems for PWD for both vocational and tertiary institutions:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brailles and large printing services are provided for students with vision problems. This is on a limited basis;</li> <li>- Examination Accommodation for College and University students with special needs;</li> <li>- Services on the University campuses to assist students with special needs;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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<p><b>Activity 34.</b> Provide education and teaching resources, as available, to meet the special educational needs of students in schools of education with an inclusive approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers are trained in institutions to equip them in working with children with special needs. Institutions involved in these training programs include: Sam Sharpe Teachers College and the Mico University.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 35.</b> Preserve the existence of special schools, which will be attended by children and adolescents who need special education, according to their type or degree of disability, with a sufficient budget to work with trained specialists and support staff, and have adequate and a continuous supply of suitable materials and quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government has provided special schools and units with materials and assists in providing budgetary allocation for special help services.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 36.</b> Promote early education programs that are aimed at developing the skills of children with disabilities in preschool, according to their specific needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Passports are being developed by the Early Childhood Commission to capture the type of disabilities in children and their developmental milestones;</li> <li>• Disability educational programmes are offered to teachers in teaching institutions.</li> </ul>		

<p><b>Activity 37.</b> Eradicating illiteracy in young people and adults with disabilities through public policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special education policy document is being developed to address the literacy skills for PWD as well as the National Policy for Persons With Disabilities.</li> <li>• Bilingual literacy skills is offered to the deaf;</li> <li>• Stories and hands on experience offered to the mentally challenged;</li> <li>• Jamaican Foundation for Lifelong Learning provides literacy skills which include PWD.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 38.</b> Facilitating the learning of Braille, alternative script, other alternative and augmentative communication modes, skills and orientation and mobility, and promote the support of others in the same circumstances, learning sign language and the promotion of linguistic identity of the hearing impaired</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brailles, scripts and aids ad appliances and communication devices for different disabilities are provided by NGOs and Government to children with special needs and institutions to facilitate in the learning process;</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 39.</b> Ensure the elimination of physical barriers that prevent access of students with needs related to their disabilities in all levels of education as a prerequisite for developing inclusive education activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing programmes with building agencies for new schools to have proper infrastructure in place to accommodate PWD.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 40.</b> Promote ongoing, specialized training, and distance, teachers of all levels of education and other professionals related to disability issues, to promote the formulation and the normal development of inclusion policies, with emphasis on respect human rights and fundamental freedoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing workshops and seminars held on yearly basis in high and primary schools, colleges and social groups;</li> </ul>		

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<p><b>Activity 41.</b> Develop specific curricular adaptations and teaching strategies, by type of disability, for an effective response to the educational needs of students with disabilities and ensure their effective learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government and NGOs incorporate curriculum for special disability needs.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 42.</b> Design and implement educational programs using new information technologies and communications to meet the educational needs associated with disability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New schools have in place a E-Learning programs;</li> <li>• Special Education Unit train educators in use of technology to train PWD which includes the Job Access With Speech (JAWS);</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 43.</b> Prioritize the allocation of sufficient financial resources to ensure compliance with inclusive educational policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budgetary allocations are in place to ensure compliance with educational policies;</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 44.</b> Generate development and assistance programs for families of children and adolescents with disabilities, so that poverty does not hinder access to appropriate public education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The social assistance programme provides funding for PWD in households with the aim of alleviating poverty.</li> <li>• A Parenting Commission is being established and through this intervention, parents with children with special needs are addressed.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 45.</b> Promote the subject of universal design in the curricula of public education system, from primary to secondary and higher education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Planning Committee is being organized to address this issue.</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: April 2010</p>

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#### **Field 4 - Employment**

**Objective** - To promote full employment inclusion, dignified, productive and profitable for people with disabilities, whether dependent or independent, both in public and private sectors, using as basis the technical and vocational education and equal job opportunities , including the availability of accessible work environments

<b>Activity Description - Program</b>	<b>Description of Activities in the Country</b>	<b>Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number</b>	<b>Start Date / End Date</b>
<b>Activity 46.</b> To ensure that people with disabilities can exercise freely and without discrimination, labor and union rights. Physical or personal support that people with disabilities need to perform their work, not to be considered unequal treatment, but positive action measures necessary for equal opportunities.	The Jamaica Council for Persons With Disabilities (JCPD) which is an agency of the Ministry of Labour & Social Security assists in finding employment for Persons With Disabilities along with interventions from other Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) that supports Persons With Disabilities. In 2008, over 25 Persons With Disabilities were employed in various private sectors.	<1%	Start date: September 2000  End date: Ongoing

<p><b>Activity 47.</b> Develop both, the public and private job placement programs for people with disabilities and promote adaptation programs, training and occupational training, technical and professional.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networks with non-government agencies (NGOs), public placement programs in placing PWD in employment;</li> <li>• Administering of vocational training in housekeeping, woodwork, landscaping, horticulture, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5% trained in vocational training;</li> </ul>	<p>Start date: 1992</p>
<p><b>Activity 48.</b> Create special plans for people with disabilities with respect, among other things, employment policies, prevention of diseases and accidents, health, safety, social security, training and retraining and development human resources, including measures adjusted favorably for people with disabilities in the workplace, along with others, the monitoring of the conservation, loss or change of employment, consideration of flexible working, part-time and the possibility of sharing a job.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most public and private entities have included facilities to enable access for Persons With Disabilities in the workplace, health facilities and educational institutions.</li> </ul>	<p>Over 90%</p>	<p>Start date: 1990 End date: Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Activity 49.</b> Promote the creation of work in the home, or remotely, taking into account new information technologies and communication as means to facilitate greater labor market opportunities for persons with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of Job Access With Speech (JAWS) for visually impaired concentrated in urban areas such as Kingston and Montego Bay;</li> <li>• Communicating through the use of cellular phones for text messages are widely used by the deaf;</li> <li>• Economic Empowerment Grant Program provides funding for Persons With Disabilities to become Entrepreneurs;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &lt;1%</li> <li>• Approx. 80%</li> <li>• &lt;5%</li> </ul>	<p>Start date: 2000 End date: Ongoing</p> <p>Start date: 2000 End date: Ongoing</p> <p>Start date: 1990 End date: Ongoing</p>



<p><b>Activity 50.</b> Conduct studies and programs for the development of job profiles and capabilities according to the type of disability, providing vocational counseling and vocational guidance, to facilitate employment of people with disabilities in tasks suited to those profiles and capabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGOs and quasi governmental organization have conducted studies on job profile, capabilities and vocational counseling and guidance for Persons With Disabilities</li> </ul>	<p>95%</p>	<p>Start date: 1992 End date: Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Activity 51.</b> Promote the implementation of mechanisms to encourage the setting aside jobs for people with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government uses public education and print media and other employment federation as a mechanism to encourage employment.</li> </ul>	<p>Approx. 50%</p>	<p>Start date: 2000 End date: Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Activity 52.</b> Promote the establishment of employment bureaus that consider accessibility to employment for people with different disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Labour &amp; Social Security has a Labour Market Information System (LMIS) that does job placements for Persons With Disabilities;</li> <li>• Special Youth Employment and Apprenticeship Programme within the Ministry of Labour &amp; Social Security provide training and apprenticeship which includes Persons With Disabilities.</li> <li>• Office of the Services Commission provides placement of jobs within the public sector which includes Persons With Disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &lt;1%</li> <li>• &lt;1%</li> <li>• &lt;1%</li> </ul>	<p>Start date: 2000 End date: Ongoing</p> <p>Start date: 2008 End date: Ongoing</p> <p>Start date: 1992 End date: Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Activity 53.</b> Promote employment of people with disabilities in the private sector through affirmative action policies, tax incentives, grants or special funding, and other similar actions on equal terms.</p>	<p><b>Not being implemented as yet.</b></p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>

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<p><b>Activity 54.</b> Ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the provisions contained in the conventions and recommendations of The International Labor Organization (ILO), in this regard, as they are applicable to the States</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no Legislation to protect the Rights of Persons With Disabilities. However, the Government is currently developing a Legislation called <b>"The National Disability Bill"</b> which will give greater legitimacy.</li> </ul>	<p>-</p>	<p>Start date: Legislation developed in 2005</p>
<p><b>Activity 55.</b> Promote business opportunities, independent work, the formation of cooperatives and creation of micro and small enterprises of persons with disabilities as well as strengthening existing ones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government introduced the Economic Empowerment Grant Program in 2008 to provide grants funding for self help projects with the goal of providing economic independence for Persons With Disabilities. To date, approximately 356 PWD benefit from this intervention;</li> <li>• Rehabilitation Grants administered through the Ministry of Labour &amp; Social Security to provide funding for micro projects.</li> </ul>	<p>&lt;1%</p> <p>1-2%</p>	<p>Start date: 2008</p> <p>Start date: 1990</p>
<p><b>Activity 56.</b> Support the development of productive projects and promotion of products of micro and small enterprises of persons with disabilities and consider establishing funds and flexible credit lines for such purposes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public entities such as Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce provide funding for low interest credit lines and promotion of micro and small enterprises for PWD.</li> </ul>	<p>&lt;1%</p>	<p>Start date: 2008 End date: Ongoing</p>

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<p><b>Activity 57.</b> Promote efforts to ensure that actions aimed towards the recognition of the employability of workers with disabilities are taken into consideration in collective bargaining agreements with unions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing public education forums have been established by the Ministry of Labour &amp; Social Security to promote inclusive workforce for PWD.</li> </ul>	<p>&lt;1%</p>	<p>Start date: 2005 End date: Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Activity 58.</b> Implement effective policies to support the family or community work of persons with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government is currently developing a Legislation called "<b>The National Disability Bill</b>" which will give greater legitimacy.</li> </ul>	<p>-</p>	<p>Start date: Legislation developed in 2005</p>

**Field 5 - Accessibility**

**Objective** - To eliminate existing physical, architectural, communications, information and existing transport, promoting the use of universal design for all new projects, and renovation of existing infrastructure, so that people with disabilities can live independently and participate actively in all aspects of community life and private life. Ensure access for disabled people with security and autonomy, and equal basis with others, physical environment, open spaces, urban systems, buildings, transportation services, information and communication systems, including information technology information and communications, and other public facilities or open to the public, both in urban and rural areas.

Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<p><b>Activity 59.</b> Ensure compliance with technical standards on accessibility for people with disabilities, in accordance with Objective 5, Accessibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Building Code is presently being revised to incorporate the technical standards on accessibility for PWD;</li> </ul>		

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<p><b>Activity 60.</b> Promote the elimination of existing urban and architectural barriers in all public agencies for public use and promote this practice in the private sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Disability Bill is being developed and will require non accessible public buildings to be retrofitted to allow access for PWD and new buildings will be required to be accessible before permission is granted for construction.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 61.</b> Take steps to ensure that all new buildings and new facilities for public use are not barriers that prevent access to persons with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Disability Bill is being developed and will require new buildings to have proper infrastructure in place before permission is granted for construction.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 62.</b> Promote the elimination of existing barriers on all modes of transport to facilitate access for disabled people, seeking to ensure that the information relating to transportation systems considering the use of methods of transmitting information, such as written, sign language, Braille, auditory information, graphic and in high relief, and other alternative media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing collaboration with the transportation authorities (both public and private entities) to ensure that facilities are established in the transportation system to accommodate PWD.</li> </ul>		Start date: 2000
<p><b>Activity 63.</b> Promote the elimination of barriers to communication and information in all media and in public institutions and public utilities use to improve access for people with disabilities to information and enabling them to receive it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing public forums and sensitization workshops with media houses (both print and electronic) and personnels to ensure elimination of barriers of communication for PWD;</li> </ul>		Start date: 2000
<p><b>Activity 64.</b> Providing access for people with reading disabilities, adopting or adapting public policies in this field, and fostering their full participation in all areas related to reading. Governments at all levels must take the necessary steps to ensure that those policies on access to books in Braille, large print, spoken or electronic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The library services provide reading and educational materials geared towards assisting PWD;</li> <li>• Brailles and large printing services are provided to students who are visually impaired. This is on a limited basis;</li> </ul>		

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<b>Activity 65.</b> Promote access for persons with disabilities to new systems, information technology and communications, including the Internet. To this end, States may consider, as appropriate, the possibility of granting subsidies, exemption from any taxes, and access to financing for the acquisition of these new systems and technologies, according to the type of disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special tax relief is provided based on severity of disability;</li> </ul>		Start date: 1981
<b>Activity 66.</b> Promote the adaptation of virtual portals of public and private sectors to facilitate access by visually impaired people to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Not yet in place.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Activity 67.</b> Consider adopting the applicable accessibility standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) or other similar standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ISO standards are currently being adopted in Jamaica;</li> </ul>		
<b>Activity 68.</b> Promote measures to design and adapt the workplace so that it is accessible to persons with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensitization seminars/workshops with public and private entities to encourage accessibility for PWD;</li> </ul>		

#### **Field 6 - Political Participation**

**Objective** - To ensure full and active participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in public and political life, including participation in the formulation and adoption of public policies to protect and promoting their rights on an equal basis with others.

<b>Activity Description - Program</b>	<b>Description of Activities in the Country</b>	<b>Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number</b>	<b>Start Date / End Date</b>
<b>Activity 69.</b> Ensure the exercise of rights and citizenship and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities by facilitating their identification and registration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper systems are in place for PWDs to participate in voter registration.</li> </ul>	50-60% participate in voter registration	Start date: 1944
<b>Activity 70.</b> Ensure, on an equal basis with others, the full participation of persons with disabilities in the voting, whether as voters or candidates, considering the necessary means of access, including the option of voting assisted by a person of his own choosing and adapting electoral systems to that end.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Blind are permitted to be escorted by a person of their choice to cast their ballot.</li> </ul>		Start date: 1944

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<b>Activity 71.</b> Promote participation of disabled people in public service in his country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement of PWD in strategic positions within the public service.</li> </ul>		
<b>Activity 72.</b> Consider the contributions and contributions from individuals or organizations of persons with disabilities in the development; implementation and monitoring of public policies in this area, especially those that directly affect them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a legislative committee including PWD who are responsible for contributing to the development of the National Disability Bill;</li> <li>• PWD were responsible for developing the National Policy for Persons With Disabilities;</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 2005</p> <p>Start date: 2000</p>
<b>Activity 73.</b> Promote coordination, training, skills development and skills to make an impact on public affairs among the various associations of persons with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Disability Workshop was conducted with the goal of aiding greater collaboration between lead agencies and Government.</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: June 2009</p>
<b>Activity 74.</b> Promoting coordination among the various associations of persons with disabilities to strengthen their participation in public policy debates at all levels and to consolidate the defense of their interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Disability Workshop was conducted with the goal of aiding greater collaboration between lead agencies and Government.</li> </ul>		
<b>Activity 75.</b> Promote training policies geared toward persons with disabilities to develop their skills in public affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Not yet in place</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Activity 76.</b> Strengthening institutional and administrative support to governmental agencies or mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing discussions with international bodies with the aim of strengthening and building capacities within the government agency with responsibility for PWDs.</li> </ul>		<p>Start date: 2008</p>

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**Field 7 - Participation in cultural, artistic, sporting and recreational**

**Objective** - To promote public policies to promote culture, sports, recreation and tourism as instruments for human development and citizenship, by ensuring that persons with disabilities can participate in cultural activities, sports, recreational and other activities to promote inclusion and social development of individuals on an equal footing. Also promote the use of technical aids to develop creative skills, artistic and intellectual in its various manifestations.

Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<p><b>Activity 77.</b> Promote, through national action plans, active participation of people with disabilities in cultural, artistic, sporting and recreational activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding is administered through various agencies to support PWDs' participation in national and international sporting, artistic and cultural activities.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 78.</b> Allocate resources to the promotion of cultural, artistic, sporting and recreational activities for people with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources have been allocated by various agencies to support PWDs participation in cultural, artistic and sporting activities.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 79.</b> Encourage organized sports activities as a measure of promoting and maintaining health through the joint efforts of sports organizations of persons with disabilities and their families and the national bodies responsible for organizing and developing sports activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government agencies provide support in organizing sporting activities geared towards PWDs and their families by promoting and maintaining health as one of the goals.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 80.</b> Promoting conditions for accessible tourism, through agreements with national tourism and hospitality sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing collaboration with the tourism sector to ensure proper infrastructure in place for PWDs.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Activity 81.</b> Promote the reduction or elimination of entrance fees for people with disabilities to installations offering tourist services, recreational and leisure activities, cultural performances, sporting events and other activities of public access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Not yet in place.</b></li> </ul>		

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<b>Activity 82.</b> Ensure training of persons with disabilities for work in the areas of tourism, culture, sport and recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses offered in various institutions that equip PWDs to be employed in the hospitality industry.</li> </ul>		
<b>Activity 83.</b> To promote greater awareness about the abilities and contributions of athletes and artists with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PWD have been promoted in both electronic and print media for their outstanding performances in athletics and artistic skills.</li> </ul>		Start date: 1973
<b>Activity 84.</b> Promote the development, study and development of artistic professions among persons with disabilities, to promote creativity, self esteem and communication, from childhood, in a climate of equality, dignity and mutual respect that leads to achieving a better quality of life for this sector of the population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutions continue to train and develop PWDs with artistic skills from childhood to adulthood;</li> </ul>		Start date: 1960s

**Field 8 - Welfare and Social Assistance**

**Objective** - To ensure access for people with disabilities to welfare programs and social security, and guarantee social assistance measures aimed at their families.

Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<b>Activity 85.</b> Incorporate into the welfare system and welfare rules that take into account the specific characteristics of people with disabilities in regard to working hours, years of contributions, and retirement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All working professionals which includes PWD are entitled to benefit from the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) at retirement</li> </ul>		
<b>Activity 86.</b> Ensure access for disabled people, particularly women, children and the elderly, social assistance programs and strategies for poverty reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social assistance programmes provide cash grants to disabled household through established poverty reduction programmes.</li> </ul>		

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<p><b>Activity 87.</b> Ensuring equal access for people with disabilities and their families to programs of food security, drinking water, basic sanitation and housing, and the inclusion of them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Jamaicans have access to the programs of food security, drinking water, basic sanitation and housing.</li> </ul>		
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**Field 9- International Cooperation**

**Objective** - To promote international cooperation as an effective instrument of support to national efforts involving partnerships among various actors at national, regional and international levels, including the private sector and civil society organizations, especially those specializing in this area.

Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<p><b>Activity 88.</b> Promote within the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS) and in the international arena, programs and projects to exchange experiences and information, capacity building and institutional strengthening among states, multilateral organizations, the private sector and organizations of civil society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize regional and international study tours to allow for exchange of experience and information within the disability sector.</li> </ul>		Start date: 1990
<p><b>Activity 89.</b> Promote and encourage other cooperative initiatives among the OAS Member States as a genuine mechanism of American solidarity, to design and implement programs and projects that facilitate the exchange of experiences and information, strengthening human and institutional capacity, with the cooperation and participation of multilateral organizations and civil society organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing collaboration with regional Heads of States to exchange ideas and experience with the view to strengthening human and institutional capacities and building greater regional cooperation.</li> </ul>		Start date: 1973.
<p><b>Activity 90.</b> To instruct the organs, agencies and entities of the OAS and other inter-American organizations, as appropriate, to collaborate with the General Secretariat on all aspects of planning and implementation, since their cooperation will be essential to achieving the objectives of the Decade.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedbacks have been generated over the years to update the OAS on status of activities within the disability sector.</li> </ul>		Start date: 1981

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<p><b>Activity 91.</b> Encourage civil society organizations specialized in the field to support the General Secretariat and Member States in implementing the Program of Action, in accordance with the guidelines for civil society participation in OAS activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government will continue the encouragement of civil society to support the General Secretariat in implementing the programme of action for PWD.</li> </ul>		
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