



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 (2006-2016)**

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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.

*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.

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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>• Airing of television and radio advertisements promoting positive images of persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Newspaper articles are published providing educational information on disabilities</li> <li>• A quarterly newsletter is published which celebrates the achievements of persons with disabilities</li> </ul>	<p>6 radio ads 5 television ads</p> <p>-----</p> <p>500 copies each quarter</p>	<p>Intermittently throughout the year</p> <p>Intermittently throughout the year quarterly</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>• This will be pursued in accordance with the draft Policy on Inclusive Education.</li> <li>• Sensitization sessions for teachers are conducted.</li> </ul>	<p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>2010 (proposed) annually</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>• Sensitisation sessions are conducted for staff of the Ministry of Social Development</li> <li>• Sensitisation sessions are conducted at schools by NGOs.</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <p>Approximately 60 participants</p> <p>----</p>	<p>Twice per year usually conducted between November January to commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities</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>• Sensitisation sessions are conducted at other Ministries</li> <li>• Human rights of all citizens are enshrined in the Constitution</li> <li>• The Ministry of Attorney General has commenced the process to draft legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities</li> </ul>	<p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Ongoing</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>• Airing of television and radio advertisements promoting positive images of persons with disabilities and encouraging the public to include persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Newspaper articles are published on achievements of persons with disabilities in all spheres</li> <li>• A quarterly newsletter is published which celebrates the achievements of persons with disabilities</li> </ul>	<p>6- radio Ads 5 T.V Ads</p> <p>500 copies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Intermittently throughout the year quarterly</p>

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<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>• Airing of television and radio advertisements promoting positive images of persons with disabilities and encouraging the public to include persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Newspaper articles are published on achievements of persons with disabilities in all spheres</li> <li>• A quarterly newsletter is published which celebrates the achievements of persons with disabilities</li> </ul>	<p>6 radio Ads 5 TV ads</p> <p>-----</p> <p>500 copies</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>quarterly</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>• Airing of television and radio advertisements promoting positive images of persons with disabilities and encouraging the public to include persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Newspaper articles are published on achievements of persons with disabilities in all spheres</li> <li>• A quarterly newsletter is published which celebrates the achievements of persons with disabilities</li> </ul>		<p>On-going</p>
<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>• Airing of radio and television advertisements</li> <li>• Publishing of newspaper articles</li> <li>• Sensitisation sessions for the public sector and schools</li> <li>• Hosting of radio and television interviews with NGOs of /for persons with disabilities</li> </ul>	<p>6 radio Ads 5 TV Ads</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>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>• Annual celebrations for International Day of Persons with Disabilities support partnerships and networking of civil society organizations.</li> <li>• Hosting of workshop with civil society organizations to discuss progress make re disability issues</li> </ul>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>On-going</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>• Annual celebrations for International Day of Persons with Disabilities support partnerships and networking of civil society organizations.</li> <li>• GORTT provides financial support on a continuous basis to several NGOs and also on a grant basis for projects.</li> <li>• Capacity building sessions are conducted by several Government agencies for civil society organisations</li> </ul>	<p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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**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

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>Health care is free and is available to all citizens at central and district health facilities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>Education prevention and early detection are provided at all health institutions and through the media.</li> </ul>		On-going
<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>Literature and educational material are provided through health facilities and the media.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>Information is provided at all health facilities by health care professionals.</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>Free mass vaccination is provided at health facilities and through schools</li> </ul>		Ongoing-as necessary

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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>All citizens are entitled to free health care at public health institutions</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>This is done through radio, television and the newspapers using local celebrities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>Protection against abuse is enshrined in national law and citizens can benefit from free legal aid. Sensitization sessions and workshops on sexual abuse and domestic violence are also conducted.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>Persons with disabilities have access to central and regional health facilities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>These activities are enshrined in national law – Occupational Health and Safety Act.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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.	N/A		
<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>Free health care including medicines and treatments are available to persons with disabilities</li> </ul>		Ongoing

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<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>Prevention programmes are conducted through the media and printed literature. Advice is also provided by health care professionals. These are available at public health facilities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<b>Activity 24.</b> Implement driver education programs and the consequences of traffic accidents to prevent possible disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe driving is promoted through the media.</li> </ul>		Ongoing

**- Rehabilitation**

Activity Description - Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation services are provided at central and district health facilities-at no cost to the client.</li> </ul>	There are approximately 120 health facilities throughout the country	Ongoing
<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation services are provided at central and district health facilities</li> </ul>	There are approximately 120 health facilities throughout the country	Ongoing
<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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The national policy on persons with disabilities recommends that training be conducted and scholarships be awarded in relevant areas.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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	-----		

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<b>Activity 29.</b> Promoting, in addition to medical rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation and survival strategies in the context of community rehabilitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocational rehabilitation services are provided throughout the country by NGOs which are funded by the GORTT.</li> </ul>	Approximately 10 NGOs offer vocational rehabilitation services	Ongoing
<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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is close collaboration among Government agencies to achieve rehabilitation and a proposal is being developed to establish a multi-sectoral assessment and treatment centre.</li> </ul>		Ongoing

### 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
<b>Activity 31.</b> Promote the inclusion of children and adolescents with disabilities and special educational needs in mainstream schools, in an integrated environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The national Policy on persons with disabilities and the draft Policy on Inclusive Education support this.</li> </ul>		Ongoing

<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>• Children with disabilities are included in the regular school environment at primary, secondary and tertiary level. Education from pre-school to secondary level is free.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Persons with disabilities have access to education at all levels.</li> <li>• Specific scholarships are provided for persons with disabilities at the tertiary level.</li> <li>• Vocational training is available to persons with disabilities through NGOs and government programmes.</li> </ul>		Ongoing  Ongoing
<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 sensitized and trained to include students with disabilities in the regular school environment.</li> <li>• Assistive technology is provided for students at the primary and secondary level.</li> <li>• Schools are physically modified to accommodate children with disabilities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing

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<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>• These schools are provided with financial assistance from Government to meet their operational cost and they also seek additional funding from the corporate sector.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• This is to be addressed in the draft Policy on Inclusive Education</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Free Education is mandatory for all children until secondary level.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Learning of augmentative Communication modes is facilitated at schools and organizations which are funded by government.</li> <li>• A dictionary of the national Sign language has been developed.</li> <li>• Sign Language is taught via television and at various organizations.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Physical modifications are made to specific schools in various districts.- This is a recommendation of the draft Policy on Inclusive Education and the national Policy on Persons with Disabilities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing

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<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>• Teacher training is conducted on a regular basis to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>		-----
<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>• Curricula modifications and strategies are recommended in the national Policy on Persons with Disabilities and draft Policy on Inclusive Education.</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>• Children with disabilities are provided with and use assistive technologies in the classroom.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• The draft Policy on Inclusive Education will be pursued once approved.</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 Government of the Republic of Trinidad &amp; Tobago offers a variety of financial grants for adults with disabilities and children with disabilities</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• This concept is promoted in the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities</li> </ul>		

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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

Activity Description – Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<p><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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All citizens have the right to work.</li> <li>• Advertisements promoting equality of work are aired on radio and television.</li> <li>• A programme to train and recruit personal –assistants to persons with disabilities has begun.</li> </ul>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<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>• GORTT employs persons with disabilities under the on the job training programmes.</li> <li>• GORTT has partnered with a non-governmental organization to employ persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Civil society organizations which are funded by GORTT provide job placement services.</li> </ul>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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<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>• These are recommendations of the national Policy on Persons with Disabilities.</li> <li>• Security of the workplace is addressed in national law.</li> <li>• Seminars have been held to sensitise human resource personnel regarding employment of persons with disabilities</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Persons with Disabilities are eligible for a financial grant from GORTT to establish small businesses.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Vocational counseling and guidance services are provided by non-governmental organizations with financial assistance from government.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><b>Activity 51.</b> Promote the implementation of mechanisms to encourage the setting aside of jobs for people with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national Policy on persons with disabilities supports equal opportunity and equal access for persons with disabilities</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><b>Activity 52.</b> Promote the establishment of employment bureaux that consider accessibility to employment for people with different disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing employment bureaux are encouraged to include persons with disabilities</li> </ul>		Ongoing

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<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national Policy on persons with disabilities supports equal opportunity and equal access for persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>		
<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>• GORTT has ratified ILO Convention No 159 on Vocational Rehabilitation for persons with disabilities and is pursuing action to implement this Convention.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Persons with disabilities are eligible for a financial grant to establish micro enterprises and also for loans to establish small businesses.</li> <li>• A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Government and the relevant non-governmental organization to provide these opportunities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing

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<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>• Persons with disabilities are eligible for a financial grant to establish micro enterprises and also for loans to establish small businesses.</li> <li>• A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Government and the relevant non-governmental organization to provide these opportunities.</li> </ul>		
<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>• This action is recommended in the national Policy on Persons with Disabilities.</li> </ul>		
<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>• Families of persons with disabilities can access counseling and other support services which are available through government agencies and through civil society organizations.</li> </ul>		

### 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
<b>Activity 59.</b> Ensure compliance with technical standards on accessibility for people with disabilities, in accordance with Objective 5, Accessibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The principles of Universal design are supported in the national Policy on persons with disabilities and responsible agencies are encouraged to these principles.</li></ul>		Ongoing
<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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The principles of Universal design are supported in the national Policy on persons with disabilities and responsible agencies are encouraged to these principles .</li></ul>		Ongoing

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<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 principles of Universal design are supported in the national Policy on persons with disabilities</li> <li>• Creation of accessible facilities is promoted through public education.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Ensuring that information is accessible to persons with disabilities is recommended in the national Policy on persons with disabilities and transportation information can be obtained electronically and via telephone.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Accessible information is promoted through workshops and through public education campaigns.</li> <li>• Relevant television advertisements and nightly newscasts are interpreted in sign language.</li> <li>• Government events are interpreted in sign language and documents are produced in braille</li> </ul>		Ongoing

<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>• Government programs, such as disaster preparedness notices are prepared in accessible formats.</li> <li>• The national Library offers books in accessible formats.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several assistive devices are exempted from taxes.</li> <li>• Financial grants are provided to purchase assistive devices</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><b>Activity 66.</b> Promote the adaptation of virtual portals of public and private sectors to facilitate access by visually impaired people to them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons with disabilities can access the internet using assistive technology at the national library</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><b>Activity 67.</b> Consider adopting the applicable accessibility standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) or other similar standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International standards are used as a benchmark to guide local activities</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><b>Activity 68.</b> Promote measures to design and adapt the workplace so that it is accessible to persons with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of accessible workplaces is done via the media and through policy workshops and dialogue with stakeholders.</li> </ul>		Ongoing

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**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.

Activity Description – Program	Description of Activities in the Country	Percentage-rate Indicator absolute number	Start Date / End Date
<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>A system to register persons with disabilities will be addressed in national law.</li> </ul>		-----
<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>This right is guaranteed in national law and provisions are made for persons with visual impairment to vote independently.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<b>Activity 71.</b> Promote participation of disabled people in public service in his country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate in public service</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>All activities aimed at including persons with disabilities are implemented in collaboration with the community of persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>All non-governmental organisations benefit from capacity building programmes to develop their skills</li> </ul>		Ongoing

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<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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All non-governmental organisations can access capacity building programmes to develop their skills.</li> <li>• Organisations of/for persons with disabilities are often brought together to discuss Policy and other issues critical to the target group</li> </ul>		On-going
<p><b>Activity 75.</b> Promote training policies geared toward persons with disabilities to develop their skills in public affairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All non-governmental organisations benefit from capacity building programmes to develop their skills.</li> <li>• Non-Governmental Organisation also obtain funds to conduct training programmes for their staff.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government agencies are provided with support to implement programs aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing

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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>Participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life is achieved through public education such as the publication of "Access T&amp;T" a guide to accessible recreational activities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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 are allocated continuously to facilitate participation in cultural and sporting activities.</li> <li>Non-governmental organizations and individuals with disabilities are provided with financial support to participate in relevant events</li> </ul>		Ongoing  ongoing

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<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>• National sporting agencies conduct specific programmes to train coaches in coaching persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Community sport and recreational facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Accessible tourism is encouraged through dialogue and public education programmes</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• The national Policy on Persons with disabilities promotes equal opportunity and equal access.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><b>Activity 82.</b> Ensure training of persons with disabilities for work in the areas of tourism, culture, sport and recreation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons with disabilities have access to vocational and other training programmes to prepare them for work in the areas of tourism culture, sport and recreation.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><b>Activity 83.</b> To promote greater awareness about the abilities and contributions of athletes and artists with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievements of persons with disabilities in cultural and recreational activities are promoted through the electronic and print media.</li> <li>• Special awards are also provided to persons with disabilities for outstanding achievements in athletics and the arts.</li> </ul>		Ongoing  On-going

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<p><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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is recommended in the national Policy on persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>		
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**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
<p><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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welfare systems are continuously reviewed to ensure relevance.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<p><b>Activity 86.</b> Ensure access for disabled people, particularly women, children and the elderly, social assistance programs and strategies for poverty reduction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons with Disabilities are treated equally when considering eligibility to social assistance programmes</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Persons with Disabilities are not discriminated against in the provision of services.</li> </ul>		Ongoing

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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>• Relevant government and non-governmental agencies participate in regional and international events with assistance from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• Relevant government and non-governmental agencies participate in regional and international events.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>• GORTT supports the activities of the OAS</li> </ul>		Ongoing
<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>	<p>Civil society organizations have been provided with information relevant to the Programme of Action.</p>		Ongoing

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