

ENABLING CHOICE AND CONTROL

Social Protection that supports independence and participation

Social protection is a powerful strategy for developing human capacity and promoting full and effective participation. By facilitating access to food, health care and education, as well as support services, social protection can enhance the independence, inclusion and active participation of persons with disabilities.

The Special Rapporteur recommends to states:

1

Participation in policy design: Establish formal consultative mechanisms to ensure the active involvement and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in decision-making processes related to social protection.

2

Design disability benefits in a way that promotes the **independence and social inclusion** of persons with disabilities and does not limit their full and equal enjoyment of other human rights and fundamental freedoms.

3

Ensure that eligibility criteria and targeting mechanisms **do not discriminate directly or indirectly** against persons with disabilities; disability determination, when established, must **respect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.**

The ultimate aim is the right to live independently and be included in the community. States must ensure that persons with disabilities can decide on an equal basis with others about life-shaping decisions, and thus have control over their own lives.

