The United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) endorses the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and encourages its member organisations to promote its implementation and monitoring. The Standard Rules represent a strong moral and political commitment of governments to take action to achieve equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

**Preconditions for equal participation**

**Rule 1**  Awareness-raising
States should take action to raise awareness in society about persons with disabilities, their rights, their potential and their contribution.

**Rule 2**  Medical care
States should ensure the provision of effective medical care to persons with disabilities.

**Rule 3**  Rehabilitation
States should ensure the provision of rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities in order for them to reach and sustain their optimum level of independence and function.

**Rule 4**  Support services
States should ensure the development and supply of support services, including assistive devices for persons with disabilities, to assist them to increase their level of independence in their daily living and to exercise their rights.
**Target areas for equal participation**

Rule 5  Accessibility

States should recognise the overall importance of accessibility in the process of the equalisation of opportunities in all sphere of society. For persons with disabilities of any kind, states should (a) introduce programmes of action to make the physical environment accessible; and (b) undertake measures to provide access to information and communication.

Rule 6  Education

States should recognise the principle of equal primary, secondary and tertiary educational opportunities for children, youth and adults with disabilities, in integrated settings. They should ensure that the education of persons with disabilities is an integral part of the educational system.

Rule 7  Employment

States should recognise the principle that persons with disabilities must be empowered to exercise their human rights, particularly in the field of employment. In both rural and urban areas they must have equal opportunities for productive and gainful employment in the labour market.

Rule 8  Income maintenance and social security

States are responsible for the provision of social security and income maintenance for persons with disabilities.

Rule 9  Family life and personal integrity

States should promote the full participation of persons with disabilities in family life. They should promote their right to personal integrity and ensure that laws do not discriminate against persons with disabilities with respect to sexual relationships, marriage and parenthood.

Rule 10  Culture

States will ensure that persons with disabilities are integrated into, and can participate in, cultural activities on an equal basis.

Rule 11  Recreation and sport

States will take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities for recreation and sport.

Rule 12  Religion

States will encourage measures for equal participation by persons with disabilities in the religious life of their communities.
Implementation measures

Rule 13  Information and research
States assume the ultimate responsibility for the collection and dissemination of information on the living conditions of persons with disabilities and promote comprehensive research on all aspects, including obstacles that affect the lives of persons with disabilities.

Rule 14  Policy-making and planning
States will ensure that disability aspects are included in all relevant policy-making and national planning.

Rule 15  Legislation
States have the responsibility to create the legal basis for measures to achieve the objectives of full participation and equality for persons with disabilities.

Rule 16  Economic policies
States have the financial responsibility for national programmes and measures to create equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Rule 17  Coordination of Work
States are responsible for the establishment and strengthening of national coordinating committees, or similar bodies, to serve as a national focal point on disability matters.

Rule 18  Organisations of persons with disabilities
States should recognise the rights of the organisations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at national, regional and local levels.

Rule 19  Personnel training
States are responsible for ensuring the adequate training of personnel, at all levels, involved in the planning and provision of programmes and services concerning persons with disabilities.

Rule 20  National monitoring and evaluation of disability programmes in the implementation of the Rules
States are responsible for the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national programmes and services concerning the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Rule 21  Technical and economic cooperation
States, both industrialised and developing, have the responsibility to cooperate in and take measures for the improvement of the living conditions of persons with disabilities in developing countries.

Rule 22  International cooperation
States will participate actively in international cooperation concerning policies for the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities.
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<th>Approval, review and related policy information</th>
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| **Date for review:** Monitor UN for amendments. |
| **Related WCPT policies:** WCPT endorsement:  
• The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
WCPT policy statement:  
• Patients'/clients' rights in physical therapy |

**References**