MEASURES TO REINFORCE THE GUARANTEE OF THE AUTONOMY OF THE EXERCISE OF THE VOTE BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA AND IN THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

Date of the event: Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 16:45-18:00 CET (22:45-00:00 EST)

Concept Note

Program of the event

The Constitution of the Principality of Andorra proclaims as inspiring principles of the action of the Andorran State the respect and the promotion of freedom, equality, justice, tolerance, the defense of human rights and the dignity of the person; and prohibits any type of discrimination. Furthermore, it establishes that public powers have to create the conditions so that equality and freedom are real and effective.

Likewise, the Principality of Andorra signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2013, coming into force in April 2014. Taking into account article 29 of the Convention, referring to participation in political life and public life of the persons with disabilities and Law 16/2021, of June 17, modifying the Law of the electoral regime and the referendum that introduces a set of measures aimed at reinforcing the autonomy of people with disabilities for the exercise of the vote, in compliance with what is established by the Convention, the Government develops a series of actions and measures to reinforce the guarantee of the autonomy of the exercise of the vote of people with disabilities in Andorra.

Actions such as easy-to-read format, pictograms or audio format are some examples implemented during the local and national elections of the Principality of Andorra with the active participation of civil society and persons with disabilities themselves.

Goals of the session

• Implementation of the article 29 of the CRPD.

• Highlight the model applied by Andorra in relation to the exercise of accessible voting.

• Consider different models of actions to guarantee the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the exercise of voting.

• Generate a space for exchanging knowledge about the full autonomy of persons with disabilities in universal accessibility when voting.

Welcome remarks: H. E. Mrs. Elisenda Vives Balmaña, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Andorra to the United Nations

Moderator: Mr. Joan Carles Villaverde, Director of Social Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Service, Andorra

Speakers of the event

- **Ms. Raquel Guardia,** responsible for the Unit of Promotion of Personal Autonomy, Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Service, Andorra
- **Ms. Noelia Guillermo,** desk-officer for the Promotion of Personal Autonomy, Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Service, Andorra
- **Mr. Antoni Vilà,** advisor of the Head of Government of Andorra
- **Mr. Marc Latorre,** representative of the civil society – Andorra
- **Ms. Maite Urcelay Callejo,** Deputy Director for International Relations at the Ministry for Social Rights, Consumers Affairs and Agenda 2030 - Spain

Questions and answers

Closing Remarks:

Ms. Maite Urcelay Callejo, Deputy Director for International Relations at the Ministry for Social Rights, Consumers Affairs and Agenda 2030 – Government of Spain

H. E. Mrs. Elisenda Vives Balmaña, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Andorra to the United Nations.