

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

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Bill

*to promote, protect and effectively ensure the Rights and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the communities in line with the Islamic injunctions and provisions of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to advance efforts for recognition of their respect and dignity in the society*

WHEREAS it is expedient to put in place legal and institutional framework to protect the rights of the Persons with Disabilities in general and women, children and the elderly in particular. as called for in the *United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* as well as other human rights treaties and conventions to which Pakistan is a State Party;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

**Part I - Preliminary**

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2017.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Federal Government may, by notification in the official gazette, appoint.

**2. Definitions.-** In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,

- (a) "Access" means meaningful and effective access to various physical and intangible means made suitable to fulfill the special needs of the Persons with Disabilities;
- (b) "Barrier" means the physical, social psychological, communication information legal or attitudinal hurdles in the way to access to infrastructure and services meant for general public;
- (c) "Chief Executive" means the person to be appointed as chief executive of the council by the government;
- (d) "Constitution" means the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973;
- (e) "Council" means the National Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities set up under section 20;
- (f) "Disability" means a long term physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses, or activities and shall include physical, mental, intellectual and developmental disorders or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers hinder performance of persons suffering from such conditions to participate fully and effectively in day to day performance and interaction with others on an equal basis;

- (g) "Equality before law" includes principles of equality on equitable basis that Persons with Disability shall have in line with the Constitution and international covenants in which Pakistan is a party;
- (h) "Discrimination on the basis of disability" means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation;
- (i) "Freedom of movement" shall have the same meaning as expressed in the Article 15 of the Constitution;
- (j) "Independent living" means environment to live with freedom, self-control, choice, and self-determination in everyday life;
- (k) "Mobility" means the possible independence for Persons with Disabilities with access to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of assistance and intermediaries, including by making them available at affordable cost;
- (l) "reasonable accommodation" means necessary and appropriate modification where needed in a particular case, to ensure that the Persons with Disabilities enjoy or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms at home, workplace and in social life; and
- (m) "misconduct" shall mean as defined in Government Servants (Efficiency & Discipline) Rules, 1973.

### **Part (I – Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**3. Rights of Persons with Disabilities .-** (1) The government shall ensure that every Person with Disability shall have a right to be respected for his/her individual dignity and lead a decent life with equal opportunity to participate in educational, social, economic, cultural and all other activities in the society without any discrimination.

(2) No person or institution, whether public or private, shall be allowed to discriminate against Persons with Disabilities or violate their rights or restrict benefits in any manner.

(3) The government shall take all necessary legal and administrative steps, including appropriate changes in the existing laws, to ensure that Persons with Disabilities enjoy a fully inclusive the right of equality guaranteed under the Constitution and that such person's disability shall not be used by any person or institution to restrain or restrict him/her from enjoying his rights unless there is a reasonable cause that not restricting such person may cause him/her harm or letting him/her perform something may be out of his physical or mental capacity.

(4) In view of restricted access of the Persons with Disabilities to means of earning their livelihood independently, the government shall take extraordinary steps to ensure their effective inclusiveness in the society through suitable education, skill development, training and placement against appropriate positions in the government departments and entities in the private sector according to the allocated quota.

(5) No Person with Disability shall be a subject of any research without his willingness or consent without any pressure and such research shall be through using accessible modes, means and formats of communication.

**4. Equality before law.**-(1) The government shall ensure that the Persons with Disabilities are treated equally like persons without such disabilities and that they are not discriminated in exercise of their rights.

(2) It shall be ensured that such persons have legal capacity to enjoy their rights and if they need support to exercise legal capacity such support is provided to them free of cost.

**5. Right to privacy.**-(1) Every Person with Disabilities shall have right to privacy as available to all citizens regardless of him/her living in a private home, rehabilitation centre, hostel, or any private or public accommodation.

(2) No Person with Disabilities regardless of place of residence or living arrangements shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his/her privacy of person, family, home and communication or correspondence. Such persons shall have the right to the protection of the law against any illegal interference and attack against their person, family, property and reputation.

**6. Women, children and elderly people and transgenders with disabilities.**-(1) In view of the extraordinary vulnerability of women, children and senior citizens with disabilities, the government shall take special measures to ensure that such women, children and elderly people are given full protection under law in enjoying their rights.

(2) The government shall also take necessary measures to ensure development, advancement and empowerment of women, children and senior citizens with disabilities.

**7. Ease of access and mobility.**-(1) The government shall take necessary measures towards allowing ease of access to the Persons with Disabilities to the public buildings, hospitals, recreational facilities public transport, streets and roads for which the old buildings and vehicles shall be appropriately modified and new buildings and vehicles shall be built conforming to the appropriate standards in conformity with the Guidelines developed by the Council.

(2) The council shall develop a guideline on removing barriers and obstacles to access in buildings, roads, modes of transportation, housing, hospitals, schools, workplaces, communication and information related services and get them implemented by the concerned authorities and persons both in public and private sectors.

(3) The council shall develop a set of minimum standards and scope of access and related signage that each department, authority, entity, and major enterprise shall put in place to ensure necessary access of Persons with Disabilities.

(4) The government shall implement procedures and programs to promote the personal mobility of Persons with Disabilities at affordable cost.

(5) The government shall ensure special seats in all means of transport for persons with disabilities and to allot parking space exclusively for the persons with disabilities at all public places. These spaces shall be nearest to that particular public place.

(6) The council shall develop and enforce guidelines allowing Persons with Disabilities to have full and appropriate access to all forms of mass communication including information

technology to enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of information. A national "relay system" would be established to standardized mechanism understandable consistently across the country.

**8. Protection from abusive, violent and intolerant behavior.-** (1) The government shall take all possible steps to protect Persons with Disabilities, from all forms of abuse, violence and exploitation at the hands of any person, institution or authority.

(2) Whenever an act of abuse, violence and intolerant behavior is committed against any person with disability and the information of such act is communicated to the council or any law enforcement agency, the concerned agency on receipt of such information, shall immediately take necessary action to investigate and curb such act and to take appropriate measures under law to lodge the victim of abuse, violence, or intolerance, as the case may be, to safe place for protected housing. No cost shall be recovered from such victim for lodging in safe place in such situation.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of laws for the time being in force, an act of physical violence against a person with disability causing even a minor injury shall be deemed as grievous injury and shall be treated as an act of violence under section 335 of Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and shall attract punishment accordingly. Other situation of aggravated abuse and violence shall also be deemed to have more gravity than in case of a person without disabilities.

(4) In case of need for legal aid such aid shall be made available to such affectee at public expense or prevent its occurrence as the case may be, or pass any such order as she/he deems fit for the protection of such person with disability including an order:

**9. Equity in education.-** (1) The government shall take all necessary measures to ensure that Persons with Disabilities are afforded equal rights to access educational institutions and shall be provided with appropriate facilities for their education without any discrimination

(2) The government shall provide free pre primary to Higher Education to Persons with Disabilities

(3) The government shall take necessary measures to establish special education institutions for the Persons with moderate to severe Disabilities to cater to their special needs in addition to making other institutions reasonably equipped and staffed to provide appropriate facilities for inclusive education to such persons in those general educational institutions.

(4) No Persons with Disabilities shall be denied admission into any educational institution, whether state owned or private, on ground of his/her disabilities.

(5) It shall be illegal for an institution and its staff members to discriminate against or abuse or otherwise violate rights of a person with disability at his place of education for which both the institution and such violating person shall be punished.

(6) The Government shall ensure inclusive education at all levels focusing on personality development, creativity and strengthening of physical and mental capabilities of Persons with Disabilities.

(7) Reasonable and appropriate accommodation shall be provided to Persons with Disabilities in the institutions including hostels, where applicable.

(8) The government shall also establish adequate dedicated and general facilities for teacher training with a view to train adequate number of specially trained teachers equipped with skills to teach students with various disabilities.

(9) The government shall ensure that all Persons with Disabilities are given full access to all modes and means of education including but not limited to vocational training, online education, distance learning and adult education.

**10. Equity in employment.-** (1) No person, institutions, organization or entity, whether public or private, shall to discriminate against a person on the ground of disability in the matters of employment, promotion, career development and enjoying fruits of his/her employment.

(2) The employer shall ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation including necessary assistive aids and equipment which a Person with Disabilities would reasonably require to perform his/her duties.

(3) The government shall reserve a quota of 20 % percent to be periodically reviewed at various levels for the Persons with Disabilities in the government departments, institutions, entities, and corporate entities owned and managed by the government and the concerned department shall implement the allocated quota. The government shall also impress upon the provincial legislatures and governments to include such measures in their laws and practices.

(4) The government shall take necessary steps to encourage private enterprises to employ Persons with Disabilities through incentives for which the government shall prepare long term inclusion plans and allocate necessary resources.

(5) The terms and conditions of employment shall not be less favorable for Persons with Disabilities as compared with those offered to other persons appointed against same or similar positions.

(6) An establishment which does not employ Persons with Disabilities as required by sub-section (3) shall pay twice in to the funds each month the sum of money it would have paid as salary or wages to a Person with Disability had he/she been employed. In the event of non-payment/non compliance, the matter shall be brought before an arbitration council to be established for the purpose.

**11. Equity in health and Medical rehabilitation services.-** (1) The government shall ensure barrier free access to necessary public health services and infrastructure to Persons with Disabilities without any discrimination and without any cost to such persons.

(2) The council shall devise plans to provide special health insurance to Persons with Disabilities to ensure free medical coverage to such persons. The government shall earmark necessary funds for financing such health insurance scheme.

(3) The government shall encourage private sector health services providers through appropriate incentives to provide quality services to Persons with Disabilities at affordable rates.

(4) Special health service for early identification and intervention of disabilities and medical services especially designed to prevent disability shall be implemented.

(5) The government shall initiate, with the help of the medical and scientific community, research to identify causes of various disabilities and make efforts to create awareness in public to adopt practices that help prevent disabilities from happening.

(6) The Government shall undertake initiatives to promote, support and implement community based rehabilitation and research initiatives at the community level.

**12. Right to live independently in community.**-(1) The Persons with Disabilities shall have equal right to live independently in the community.

(2) Such persons shall be provided all necessary facilities by the Government without discrimination to enable them to live independently.

(3) The government shall take necessary preventive measures to ensure that Persons with Disabilities are not excluded or segregated from the community on basis of their disability and that their access to communal facilities and services is restriction free.

(4) The government shall also take necessary measures to enable the Persons with Disabilities to have access to a range of in-house, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance service necessary to support living and inclusion in community.

(5) The government shall provide Persons with Disabilities with assistive aid and equipment, assistive technology at a subsidized rate. A special training is provided at all levels from time to time in order to train persons with disabilities in mobility skills.

(6) Entities that produce such equipment materials and components are provided with all the facilities they require at a subsidized rate.

(7) Tax exemption on import of specialized (custom made) and accessible wheel chair, electrical wheel chairs, Vans/Buses/Automobiles (up to 10 years old) and other assistive devices to cater the special requirements for persons with disabilities.

**13. Right of Living.**-(1) Every person with disability shall have right to a decent place of living of his/her choice and no person shall discriminate against a person with disability by way of refusing to rent him/her or sell to a place of living because of him/her being a person with disability.

(2) The government shall evolve a policy toward fair and affordable housing for Persons with Disabilities in government owned, sponsored, or assisted projects and also in the private housing schemes. The authorities approving establishment of new housing schemes and plans shall ensure that appropriate number of affordable housing units are included in each such scheme or plan.

(3) The government shall set up and maintain decent housing facilities for the Persons with Disabilities who do not have a place to live and need a decent temporary shelter. The council shall with the help from the provincial authorities; civil society organizations and society at large assist to arrange permanent shelter for such persons.

**14. Right to home and family.**-(1) No person with disability, especially a child/adult/senior citizen, shall be separated from his/her family on the grounds of disability unless a court of law requires him/her to be so separated in his/her best interest.

(2) Where the immediate family of a person is unable to cater a person, especially a child with disabilities, the court shall make an effort to place such person at a setup suitable for his/her safe living.

(3) All Persons with Disabilities shall have the right to marry a person of their own choice and raise their family without any discrimination.

(4) No person with disability shall be subjected to any medical procedure leading to infertility, forced sterilization shall be a non-compoundable offence.

(5) The government shall provide free services regarding reproductive health especially to women with disabilities.

**15. Freedom of expression and information.-** (1) The government shall ensure that Persons with Disabilities have full and equitable rights with regards to freedom of speech, right to expression and information and effective measure are taken for their such rights to be enjoyed.

(2) The council shall take necessary measures to convey the voice of Persons with Disabilities and their organizations across to the governments, civil society and international community.

(3) Council shall encourage the state and private run electronic and print media to promote awareness on the rights of Persons with Disability through public service messages and programming inclusive for all types of disabilities

(4) The Government may provide advertisements to publications dedicated for Persons with Disabilities

(5) The Government shall ensure all websites hosted by Pakistani website service providers accessible for all kinds of disabilities

**16. Right of political participation.-**(1) Persons with Disabilities shall have full right to participate in the political activity in the country including exercising right of vote and right to be elected to an elected body.

(2) The Election Commission of Pakistan shall ensure that each polling station is accessible to the Persons with Disabilities and necessary arrangements are made for them to cast their votes confidentially and without any difficulty. Any act by any person to cause restriction on exercise of right of vote by a person with disability shall be deemed as forceful obstruction as defined in the Elections Act, 2017 and shall be prosecuted and punished accordingly.

(3) The council shall, with the help of the Election Commission of Pakistan, educate political parties on the issues and problems of the Persons with Disabilities to encourage them to make those issues and problems part of their political programmes.

(4) The Election Commission of Pakistan shall be mandated to develop voters accessibility mechanism for the persons with disabilities such as brail voting paper etc.

**17. Access to justice.-** (1) The Government shall ensure that the Persons with Disabilities are provided with assistance including sign language interpreters and attendants to access to the justice system.

**18. Right to own property.-** (1) The Persons with Disabilities shall not be denied right to own, sell or inherit property on the basis of disability.

**19. Participation in sports, cultural and recreational activities.-** (1) The government shall ensure that no person is discriminated against in participation of any sports, games, cultural and recreational activities on ground of his disability. Assistive devices, equipment and latest technology shall fully be made available for their inclusion in sports, cultural, recreational and leisure activities. One seat for Person with Disabilities in the sports board Government shall ensure linkages of the monitoring mechanism for para Olympics special Olympics Sports association.

(2) Access to cultural materials, programs and activities shall be provided in accessible and appropriate formats to Persons with Disabilities.

(3) Barrier-free and discrimination-free access to media programs, films, theatres, parks, stadiums, play grounds, beaches and other places of leisure, recreation, sports and cultural activities shall be provided to such persons.

(4) The government shall fully facilitate participation of Persons with Disabilities in scouting, art classes, outdoor camps, hunting, tourism and adventure activities and shall also help to develop and utilize their artistic, creative and intellectual capabilities.

**20. Protection of Persons with Disabilities in risk and disaster situations.-** (1) All Persons with Disabilities shall be given top priority in providing suitable protection and safety in situations of risk and natural disasters and they shall immediately be removed from such areas and moved to a safe place on priority.

(2) In situations of armed conflict, the police, civil armed forces and the armed forces shall take appropriate measures on priority to ensure the safety, protection and removal of such persons.

(3) All authorities engaged in reconstruction activity subsequent to any situation of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies or natural disasters shall ensure that Persons with Disabilities are accorded priority in reconstructing their institutions, homes and other facilities and restoring services.

(4) The council shall keep a close coordination with the disaster management authorities for protection and removal to safety and keep record of such persons caught in such situation and ensure early rehabilitation.

(5) Needs and concerns of Person with Disabilities should be included Disaster Risk Reduction.

### Part III – Administration of Rights

**21. Strengthening and renaming of the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons.-** (1) There shall be restructuring and renaming of the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons to an autonomous body shall be called as National Council for Rights Persons with Disabilities consisting the following:

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|--|--------------------|
| (i) Minister Concerned   | Chairperson        |
| (ii) Secretary Concerned   | Vice Chairperson   |
| (iii) A Person with Disability   | Deputy Chairperson |
| (iv) Representatives of Provincial Social Welfare Departments  | Members            |
| (v) One representative each (not below the level of Joint Secretary) DGSE of the Planning & Development, Law & Justice, Finance, Overseas Pakistanis, Human Resource Development, Federal Education and Professional Training, Industries Divisions, Information and Broadcasting, Capital Development Authority, Housing and Works and Ministry of Interior | Members            |
| (vi) Administrator, Pakistan Baitul Mal  | Member             |

- (vii) Two businesspersons nominated by FPCCI Members
- (viii) Four persons to be nominated by the Council Members

From amongst the persons engaged in the welfare of Persons with Disabilities

- (ix) Focal person on UNCRPD DGSE Member/Secretary

(2) The government functionaries represented on the council shall hold their offices ex-officio. The private appointees shall be appointed by the government for a period of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one additional term.

**22. Functions of the Council.**-(1) The council shall have the responsibility of achieving objectives of the Act and to assist the government in developing legal and institutional framework.

(2) The Council shall be the executive authority to implement this Act to develop a legal and social environment and to help the Persons with Disabilities to have the protection of law in enjoying their fundamental rights.

(3) The council shall, with the help of other authorities and persons, take all possible measures to protect Persons with Disabilities from discrimination, exploitation, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment on the hands of any one including their families and caregivers.

(4) The council shall coordinate the implementation of the principles of the Convention at provincial and lower administrative levels through providing technical assistance to various organs of the provincial legislatures and governments in developing appropriate legal and institutional frameworks in their jurisdictions and making them efficiently and effectively achieve the objective of protection and enforcement of rights.

(5) The council shall evaluate the effectiveness of laws and policies and assess the implementation of the laws and policies at the national level and recommend to the government about the changes required in the policies, laws and practices.

(6) The council shall conduct or cause to conduct research on the status of the Persons with Disabilities and matters related promoting and protecting their rights.

(7) The council shall put into place an institutional mechanism to regularly monitor performance of various departments and organizations in the government and issue a performance score card to each such entity and organization at least once in every three years. Similarly, the council shall devise and maintain score cards for private entities that seek such evaluation and assessment. Such performance audits shall be conducted by third party professionals and the council staff.

(8) The council also assess its own performance in creating legal and social environment in the country and issue an annual status report within 3 months of end of every calendar year.

(9) The council shall be responsible to monitor the activities of the private and community based organizations to ensure that required standards of service are maintained and that funds generated by them in the name of Persons with Disabilities are appropriately used. The council may enforce an institutional mechanism for effective, efficacious and transparent functions of such organizations and may impose restrictions on organizations not meeting the objective criteria laid down by it.

(10) The council shall have the powers to frame and enforce regulations and guidelines for its own efficient and professional working and for effective achievements of objects of this law shall make regulations.

**23. Governmental authorities and other persons to assist the council.-** (1) All the functionaries of the government shall extend full and effective cooperation to the Council in ensuring the enforcement of this Act and other laws for protecting the rights of the Persons with Disabilities .

(2) Any person in the governmental position not effectively cooperating with the council shall be deemed to have committed misconduct and shall be appropriately punished.

**24. Funds for rehabilitation.-**(1) The government shall establish an endowment fund for sustainably financing the projects and activities related to ensuring effective rights protection and inclusion in society of Persons with Disabilities .

(2) The government shall establish another fund to receive non-endowment monies and other valuables.

(3) The funds established in sub-sections (1) and (2) shall be managed by the council.

(4) The funds shall be financed through:

- (i) grants from the government and provincial governments;
- (ii) grants from international organizations, governments and other such bodies;
- (iii) levies and other charges that government imposes for rehabilitation;
- (iv) fines and penalties under this Act;
- (v) donations and bequests by private persons; and
- (vi) any other source.

(5) The monies from the funds mentioned sub-sections (1) and (2) shall be used only for the projects and activities directly related to rehabilitation of the Persons with Disabilities .

**25. Creating public awareness.-**(1) The council shall take immediate, appropriate and result oriented measure to raise awareness amongst the society as a whole with regards to recognition and respect for the Persons with Disabilities and their rights.

(2) The council shall recommend to the federal and provincial governments measures to include the topics on disability in educational curriculum to create awareness among young students about the Persons with Disabilities generating respect for such persons and their rights to become effective components of the communities, trade and commerce.

(3) The government shall include topics on addressing the problems of the Persons with Disabilities in the training programmes of the institutions responsible for imparting trainings to the officers and official of the government including judges and court officials.

**26. Rehabilitation.-**(1) The government shall take all possible measures to ensure that Persons with Disabilities attain maximum independence and ability to participate in the activities of life including getting education, doing business, getting employed, and participate in sports and cultural activities.

(2) The government shall promote continuing skill development and training in existing advance skills; technologies to the Persons with Disabilities for maximum and effective participation and integration of such persons in the community.

(3) The government shall undertake initiatives to promote, support and implement community based rehabilitation and research initiatives of its own, provincial government and organizations outside the government spheres.

**27. Insurance cover.-** (1) The council shall devise and put in place comprehensive group medical and accident insurance for the participating Persons with Disabilities and shall also facilitate such persons in getting affordable life and other forms of insurance.

(2) The council may set up a separate fund to pay premium for the Persons with Disabilities who cannot pay for the premium from their own sources.

**28. Special disability courts.-** (1) For speedy justice the government shall designate and shall encourage provincial governments to designate courts to hear cases under this law or other laws in which one or more parties are Persons with Disabilities .

(2) There shall be an effective institutionalized mechanism to monitor such cases by appropriate judicial forums as devised by the respective high courts in the country.

**29. Ombudsman for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.-** Offices of Ombudsman for hearing complaints of various persons with disabilities shall be established.

#### Part IV - Miscellaneous

**30. Power to make rules and regulation.-**(1) The government shall have power to make rules under this law for its efficacious and effective implementation. Draft of such rules shall be published for the comments and input from general public at least 30 days before proposed implementation of those rules.

(2) Any objection or proposal put forth by any one shall be given due consideration by the government and if considered appropriate such changes shall be incorporated in those draft rules before they enter into force.

(3) The council shall have power to make regulations for its internal organization and operation and also to lay down processes and procedures to implement this act and rules made under it.

**31. Removal of difficulties.-** If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the government may make such order, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to be necessary, for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

**32. Repeal and savings.-**(1) Persons with Disabilities (Employment & Rehabilitation) Ordinance, 1981 shall stand repealed from the day this Act enters into force.

(2) All the acts done under the repealed law shall continue to remain in force and cases for the time being pending in courts and tribunals shall be decided according to that law.

#### Statement of Objects and Reasons

The Government of Pakistan, over the passage of time, has been making efforts towards facilitating the needs and concerns of the persons with disabilities in the country. Legislative framework has been

put in place like promulgation of 'Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance, 1981 (Ordinance XL of 1981) that aimed at economically empower persons with disabilities and inter alia, provided job quotas in public sector.

The Government of Pakistan continues to make efforts for an inclusive democratic process and feels that the persons with disabilities need to be enabled as productive part of the society by taking various special measures at the infrastructural and operational and programmatic levels.

It has been observed that disabilities are of various natures and extent, each one of which requires to be facilitated within its specific context for access to affordable health, education and social integration for which a comprehensive legal framework needs to be put in place. Thus, protecting their rights and reducing their vulnerability to socio-economic and political opportunities.

It is with the same intent that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) that mandates and guides the state parties towards protecting the rights and catering to the special needs of persons with disabilities.

The Bill, thus, presents a comprehensive and most inclusive scope for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and making it a responsibility for all to ensure accessibility to the needs of persons with disabilities.

Sd/-  
MS. SHAISTA PERVAIZ  
Member-in-charge  
of the Department of  
Social Welfare