



Urgent Follow-up Report

On the Replies of the State of Palestine Delegation in Geneva to the List of Issues in relation to its Initial Report, including Article 11 of the Convention

**Submitted by
QADER for Community Development**

**Submitted to
The Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Thirty third Session – Geneva
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First: Introduction

QADER for Community Development (Palestine) submits **this urgent report** in follow-up to the outcomes of the Thirty-third Session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The submission follows the delivery of **two oral statements**: the first on its analytical report concerning the List of Issues in relation to the initial report of the State of Palestine, and the second on its analytical report regarding the use of starvation as a weapon of genocide and forced displacement, and its systematic impact on persons with disabilities, submitted in connection with the provisions of Article (11) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, relating to situations of risks, humanitarian emergencies, and armed conflicts.

QADER conveys its **appreciation to the esteemed Committee for the significant efforts** exerted during the review of the State of Palestine's obligations under the Convention, and for its openness to the contributions of organizations representing persons with disabilities in the State of Palestine. It further commends the constructive and responsible dialogue held with the official delegation of the State of Palestine, represented by its Permanent Mission in Geneva, in a manner that reinforces the protection and enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the general principles, general obligations, and rights enshrined and protected under the Convention.

QADER, through its team composed of the Director General, Ms. Lana Bandak, and the Legal Advisor, Dr. Issam Abdeen, followed the replies submitted by the State of Palestine through its **Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva**, Ambassador Ibrahim Khraisha, and the First Secretary, in the absence of representatives of the Palestinian Government - most notably the Ministry of Social Development, which is the authority mandated under the Law of the Rights of the Disabled No. (4) of 1999 to oversee the rights and issues of persons with disabilities, as well as the absence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for following up on the State of Palestine's obligations and entitlements under the international treaties it has ratified without reservations. **QADER** also followed the briefing submitted by the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine and the replies of the Palestinian delegation to the questions of the esteemed Committee, during the session held on 14 August 2025, within the proceedings of the Thirty-third Session in Geneva.

As **QADER** reaffirms the content of its previous reports and oral statements to the Committee, including the facts, documented testimonies, analyses, conclusions, and recommendations contained in both reports, it adds urgent observations and recommendations outlined in this report. **QADER** also expresses its **deep concern** regarding the methodology and substance of the briefing delivered by the Palestinian delegation in Geneva, in light of its obligations under the Convention, **as well as its concern** over the briefing presented by the Independent Commission for Human Rights, which did not refer to the State of Palestine's obligations under the Convention or to the

List of Issues adopted by the Committee, despite its role as a national human rights institution and its responsibilities under the Paris Principles.

In light of the above, QADER wishes to place before the esteemed Committee its principal concerns and recommendations, as follows:

Second: Principal Concerns

1. The Palestinian delegation in Geneva expressed regret that the Palestinian Government, represented by the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was unable to attend the United Nations premises in Geneva to deliver the briefing of the State of Palestine and respond to the questions of the esteemed Committee, citing the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities on freedom of movement in Palestine and the withholding of tax revenues. **QADER** underscores that the Israeli occupation authorities continue to violate the right of Palestinians to freedom of movement, including the compounded impact on persons with disabilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. However, this explanation remains unjustified and also indicates a form of evasion by the State of Palestine regarding its obligations under the Convention, particularly as organizations and coalitions representing persons with disabilities were **physically present** in the sessions dedicated to the State of Palestine during the Thirty-third Session, demonstrating the lack of seriousness of the Government in assuming its responsibilities under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which it acceded **without reservations**, in the absence of any meaningful progress.

2. The Palestinian delegation in Geneva indicated that its briefing to the esteemed Committee would be **limited solely to Article (11)** of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in the context of the ongoing aggression and genocide in the Gaza Strip and across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and its impact on persons with disabilities. **QADER** views this response with grave concern, as it clearly contravenes the obligations of the State of Palestine under the Convention. In principle, a State Party does not have the right to select a single article of a Convention it has acceded to **without reservations** and confine its briefing and responses solely to that provision. It cannot pick and choose which obligations to observe while neglecting others. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities **“does not allow for fragmentation”** nor for discretionary compliance by a State Party. Accordingly, the State of Palestine **has explicitly violated Article (35) of the Convention (Reports by State Parties), which obliges the State to submit a comprehensive report on the measures taken to implement its obligations under the Convention and on the progress achieved in this regard.**

3. Article (11) of the Convention obliges States Parties to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including armed conflicts, as is the case in Palestine, where the Israeli occupation constitutes an international armed conflict under international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions. Accordingly, Israel, as the occupying power, bears the responsibility to protect persons with disabilities, while the State of

Palestine, as a State Party to the Convention, bears the responsibility to fulfill its international obligations. **Neither may evade these obligations, whether in times of peace or war**, as the abdication of responsibilities by the occupying authorities, or the failure of the State of Palestine to meet its obligations, leaves persons with disabilities outside the protection guaranteed by the Convention, amid systematic starvation and genocide, which constitutes a flagrant and grave violation of the Convention.

4. **QADER** notes that the obligations of the State of Palestine under Article (11) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are clearly reflected in the List of Issues related to the initial report, adopted by the esteemed Committee on 25 April 2023 (Document No. CRPD/C/PSE/Q/1), specifically Issue No. (9), under the heading “Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies – Article 11.” The esteemed Committee requested that the State of Palestine provide clear and specific information on the following:

(a) Measures taken to ensure respect for all the human rights of persons with disabilities and their safety and security in the context of conflict and the occupation by Israel, including during military operations, and specific measures to tackle and address the impacts of restrictions on freedom of movement and on the rights to family life, education, health, work and an adequate standard of living of persons with disabilities

(b) Early warning mechanisms and evacuation plans that are accessible for persons with disabilities during military operations and measures to ensure protection of civilian buildings in which persons with disabilities are reported to live;

(c) Measures taken to ensure access to humanitarian response and recovery by persons with disabilities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and plans for an enduring recovery from the effects of conflict, occupation and the blockade, and to involve organizations of persons with disabilities in reconstruction and attempts at reconciliation and peace. Please also provide information about the proportion of aid recipients with disabilities, compared with the proportion of persons with disabilities in the population, disaggregated by sex, age and disability;

(d) Measures taken to guarantee continuous and unrestricted access to prosthetic and assistive devices, spare parts and batteries, health care and electricity by persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities in the Gaza Strip, and to facilitate training on methods of evaluation, maintenance of devices and rehabilitation, including in relation to hearing impairments;

(e) Measures taken to ensure that persons with disabilities through their representative organizations are consulted and actively involved in strategies and programs related to humanitarian response and recovery, as well as their periodic monitoring and evaluation. Please elaborate on information about measures to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in strategies and plans for refugee and internally displaced persons;

(f) Measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, including women, older persons and children with disabilities, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and other emergency situations, the impact of these measures and the mainstreaming of a disability perspective in recovery plans;

QADER underscores that these demands clearly illustrate the extent of the State of Palestine's evasion of its obligations, as its responses lack any substantive treatment of the required measures and mechanisms, thereby constituting a **fundamental breach of its obligations** under the Convention.

5. The delegation of the State of Palestine in Geneva failed to respond to issue No. (9), relating to article (11) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in all its subparagraphs (a–f), and provided no answers **to the remaining 31 issues and their sub-questions**. In doing so, the State of Palestine has effectively refrained from addressing the List of Issues prepared by your esteemed Committee. Accordingly, **QADER** has emphasized in its reports and briefings submitted to the Committee that **it has not observed any serious progress made by the State of Palestine concerning the matters raised in relation to its initial report since the publication of the List of Issues on 25 April 2023**.

6. Your esteemed Committee must not allow the State of Palestine, or any State party to the Convention, to diminish or fragment any of the rights of persons with disabilities guaranteed under the Convention (**arts. 1–33**), **whether in times of peace or conflict**. **Article (35) obliges the State party (the State of Palestine) to submit a comprehensive report on the measures taken to implement all of its obligations under the Convention. This is consistent with the rules of procedure governing the work of the Committee**. Any leniency or derogation from the Convention would set a **serious precedent**, undermining the unity of the Convention and weakening its purpose, general principles, general obligations and the rights enshrined therein, which must be read as a single, indivisible and integrated whole.

7. The State of Palestine must provide clear, direct and detailed responses, within specified timelines, ensuring the effective participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in relation to each of the rights enshrined in the Convention and to all the issues raised in the List of Issues submitted by your esteemed Committee, **without exception**. This obligation is of heightened importance given the increasing risks, discrimination and structural marginalization faced by persons with disabilities in Palestine in the context of genocidal acts, systematic starvation, the absence of specialized surveys, the lack of national policies grounded in a disability-inclusive approach, the absence of clarity in budget allocations, the lack of legislative harmonization, and the continuing exclusion of representative organizations of persons with disabilities from effective participation in decision-making processes, in contravention of the Convention. In this regard, **QADER** affirms that **it has submitted detailed, evidence-based practical recommendations covering all issues on which the State of Palestine is required to**

provide immediate responses, through its comprehensive analytical report presented to the Committee at its 33rd session.

8. **QADER** informs your esteemed Committee that the briefing delivered by the delegation of the State of Palestine in Geneva **was not preceded by consultations with representative organizations and coalitions of persons with disabilities in Palestine**, in contravention of article (4) paragraph (3) of the Convention, which obliges States parties to “**closely consult** with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations” in the development and implementation of legislation, policies and decision-making processes concerning them. In this regard, **QADER** recalls its submission to the Committee noting that the State of Palestine **has failed to publish its replies to the List of Issues relating to its initial report**, in violation of the Convention and the relevant guidelines issued by the Committee.

9. In its briefing before your esteemed Committee in Geneva, the delegation of the State of Palestine stated that it regularly submits reports to the United Nations treaty bodies, with the exception of the report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, citing the ongoing genocide and international crimes in the Gaza Strip and throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. **The statement of the Ambassador, therefore, explicitly confirmed that the State of Palestine has not responded to the List of Issues issued by your Committee in relation to its initial report, including Issue No. (9) and its sub-questions concerning Article (11) of the Convention.** The delegation did not provide specific clarification on the nature of the efforts undertaken, or progress achieved, to promote, protect and ensure the enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip, since the onset of the systematic and large-scale assault on 7 October 2023, nor on the legislative, policy, planning, budgetary and implementation measures required to ensure inclusive protection.

10. Furthermore, the statement by the delegation of the State of Palestine that the only exception concerns the report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is **inaccurate**. Reference to the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the State of Palestine (document CRC/C/PSE/CO/1), published on 6 March 2020, **shows that in recommendation No. (64), the Committee on the Rights of the Child requested the State of Palestine to submit its “combined second and third periodic reports” by 2 May 2025 and to include in them comprehensive information on follow-up to the (65 concluding recommendations) issued by the Committee. To date, the State of Palestine has not submitted this report within the deadline and has instead resorted to practices of delay and procrastination.**

11. In its briefing before your esteemed Committee in Geneva, the delegation of the State of Palestine indicated that the prevalence of disability in the State Party stands at 7 per cent under the broad definition and 2.7 per cent under the narrow definition. **QADER** affirms that these figures

are based on the results of the first and only specialized survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Development in cooperation with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, published in December 2011, more than fourteen years ago, specifically as stated in the final paragraph of page (19) of the survey results report¹. These same figures have since been repeated in subsequent reports, including the Population, Housing and Establishments Census (2017) and in the annual statements issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Consequently, the figures cited by the delegation reflect a severe lack of updated data and specialized surveys, leading to illogical conclusions suggesting that disability prevalence in Palestine is decreasing despite the intensifying conflict and thousands of casualties. Such reliance on outdated data is inconsistent with the actual situation on the ground and does not demonstrate genuine commitment by the State party to its obligations under the Convention.

12. **QADER** underscores that the Palestinian Government has not conducted any specialized survey of persons with disabilities since 2011 to assess the scale of the historical marginalization and suffering endured by persons with disabilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, **a situation that was further exacerbated during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and has reached the level of a humanitarian catastrophe and silent genocide in the context of the ongoing assault of nearly two years and the international crimes committed, with their compounded catastrophic impacts on persons with disabilities**, as documented in QADER's reports to the Committee. This structural and **chronic** shortcoming has aggravated the suffering, marginalization and exclusion of persons with disabilities in Palestine, and has made it impossible to determine the full extent of the violations affecting the entire spectrum of their rights under the Convention, and to formulate policies, plans and interventions grounded in reliable, comprehensive indicators and data, rather than conflicting figures and percentages. A specialized survey of persons with disabilities can be carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Social Development, and there are no internal obstacles preventing this. If representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including **QADER**, have documented dozens of violations affecting persons with disabilities—particularly since the beginning of the assault on Gaza on 7 October 2023—and included some of these in its submission to the Committee, then the State Party is equally capable of conducting such a specialized survey.

13. In its briefing, the delegation of the State of Palestine referred to information, data and interventions drawn from the State Party's initial report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, submitted to your Committee on 14 June 2019 (CRPD/C/PSE/1), without acknowledging that the Committee had already reviewed the initial report and subsequently issued to the State of Palestine **the List of Issues**, published on 25 April 2023, requiring detailed replies. This indicates that the delegation was not familiar with the List of Issues

¹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs (Ministry of Social Development), *Survey on Persons with Disabilities 2011: Main Findings Report*, p. 19, available on the official website of the Bureau at the following link: <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/downloads/book1812.pdf>

under discussion with your Committee, owing to the absence of the Government, in particular the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which follow up on the State of Palestine's obligations under the Convention, to which it acceded without reservations. The delegation also presented statistical indicators drawn from outdated statements of United Nations entities and specialized agencies, without providing any official statistics or data from the competent government authorities or the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in contravention of Article (31) of the Convention. This omission is particularly grave given the genocide, starvation and international crimes that have escalated in a widespread and systematic manner since the onset of the aggression on 7 October 2023 and their compounded catastrophic impact on persons with disabilities. These shortcomings illustrate a **structural failure** of the State of Palestine to respect its obligations under the Convention, both in times of peace and in situations of conflict.

14. In its briefing before your esteemed Committee, the delegation of the State of Palestine referred to the role of **the Government Emergency Operations Room for the Southern Governorates (Gaza Strip)** in protecting and assisting persons with disabilities during the ongoing Israeli aggression, stating that its budget **amounts to USD (3.5) billion**. QADER informs the Committee that the Emergency Operations Room for the southern governorates, **chaired by the Ministry of Social Development, was established by a decision of the Palestinian Council of Ministers at its session No. (42) of 20 October 2025**. The decision provided for **“the establishment of a Government Emergency Operations Room for the southern governorates, to include representation from all relevant ministries and government institutions at senior staff level and to remain in permanent session.”**² However, **no representative organizations of persons with disabilities are members of the Emergency Operations Room, no work plan has been published, and no reports have been made available apart from a few news items posted on the official website of the Council of Ministers**. The information published does not indicate any specific interventions for the protection, assistance and empowerment of persons with disabilities, who are enduring a compounded catastrophe throughout the aggression³. **This demonstrates that persons with disabilities are not being prioritized in the humanitarian response, despite the scale of the crisis.**

15. QADER further notes that the Palestinian Government approved the 2024 Government Emergency Plan and designated the 2024 budget as an emergency budget. A limited portion of the plan **(approximately 28 per cent of the total emergency budget)** is to be financed from the general budget, **while 72 per cent is allocated to humanitarian and relief interventions to be funded by international partners and donors, including UNRWA, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank**. The Emergency Plan is based on the reprioritization

² Official Website of the Palestinian News and Information Agency (WAFA): <https://www.wafa.ps/pages/details/112158>

³ Official Website of the Palestinian Cabinet: <https://www.palestinecabinet.gov.ps/portal/Reports/2044/1>

of needs and responses to emerging challenges, structured around three main pillars: (1) urgent response to humanitarian priorities in the Gaza Strip arising from the ongoing aggression; (2) response to priorities and needs in the West Bank resulting from the occupation's aggression, including forced displacement of civilians in some areas, destruction of infrastructure in camps and cities, settlement expansion and financial blockade; and (3) ensuring, as a top priority, the continuity of government institutions in delivering all services to citizens, particularly education, health and urgent humanitarian response to the needs of *vulnerable groups* in society and in remote areas. While the Emergency Plan emphasizes **urgent humanitarian response in Gaza and highlights that addressing the needs of vulnerable groups is among the Government's top priorities, it does not identify specific interventions, programs, activities or budgetary allocations to protect, assist and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities or to guarantee an effective humanitarian response to their needs and requirements in Gaza and across the occupied Palestinian territory. This omission runs counter to the stated objectives and criteria underpinning the preparation and financing of the Emergency Plan, as well as to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, the Palestinian Government has yet to publish its 2025 plan and outline its priorities for responding to disability-related needs.**

16. The assertion by the delegation of the State of Palestine that financial constraints prevent compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities **does not appear accurate**, notwithstanding the practices and violations committed by the occupying authorities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the unlawful withholding of Palestinian clearance revenues in contravention of international law and their obligations as an occupying power. The Government's 2024 Emergency Plan and Budget clearly indicate that the majority of its financial resources rely on donor grants and assistance (**72% of the emergency budget**). This stands in contradiction to the delegation's claim that lack of funding prevents the State of Palestine from fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, to which it has acceded without reservations.

17. In its briefing before your esteemed Committee, the delegation of the State of Palestine employed terminology inconsistent with its obligations under Article (8) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (awareness-raising), which requires the State of Palestine to combat stereotypes, prejudices, and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities. Terms such as **"the handicapped"** and **"persons with special needs"** were used, and such terminology was also repeatedly employed in the State of Palestine's initial report submitted to your Committee on 14 June 2019 (CRPD/C/PSE/1). That report further included terms such as **"insane," "incapacitated,"** and **"lacking legal capacity."** These discriminatory terms also appear in the amended Basic Law (the Palestinian Constitution), in particular Article (9) under the section on rights and public freedoms, which prohibits any form of discrimination based on disability. Their use constitutes disability-based discrimination prohibited under the Convention, as well as violations of the State's obligations to raise awareness and combat stereotypes and harmful practices.

18. QADER expresses concern over the failure of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine (the national institution) to address any of the State of Palestine's obligations towards persons with disabilities in its briefing before your esteemed Committee during the session held on 14 August 2024. This omission runs counter to its duties and responsibilities under the Convention and the Paris Principles. QADER further emphasizes that the responsibilities of the Israeli occupying authorities do not absolve the State of Palestine of its own obligations under the Convention. Moreover, the absence of democratic deliberation within its executive management stands in contradiction to principles of good governance, transparency, and the Paris Principles regarding the role of national human rights institutions.

19. QADER notes that, notwithstanding **repeated** affirmations by numerous United Nations Special Rapporteurs — foremost among them the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, Ms. Francesca Albanese — together with UN experts and a number of international organizations, that the ongoing assault on Gaza, unprecedented in modern times, constitutes acts of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as other international crimes set forth in the Rome Statute, such as **starvation, forced displacement, and apartheid**; your esteemed Committee has not employed these legal and human rights characterizations in its action or statements, despite their clear applicability to the international crimes being perpetrated in the occupied Palestinian territory. This omission raises legitimate questions as to the reasons for avoiding such terminology, and calls for a serious review to ensure their incorporation in the Committee's activities and statements, given their importance in advancing accountability, securing justice and redress for persons with disabilities who are victims of these grave violations and serious crimes, preventing impunity, and strengthening humanitarian response measures.

Third: QADER's Recommendations

In light of QADER's first analytical report submitted to your esteemed Committee on the list of issues related to the initial report of the State of Palestine, and its second analytical report on the policy of starvation as a weapon of genocide and forced displacement and its systematic impact on persons with disabilities, together with the references it contains to numerous comprehensive reports and credible first-hand testimonies on grave violations and international crimes committed against persons with disabilities in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territory more broadly; in addition to the oral briefings delivered by the organization during the 33rd session in Geneva, and this urgent follow-up report; **QADER respectfully submits the following recommendations to your Committee:**

- 1. Issue a written notice to the State of Palestine requesting the submission of its comprehensive report in response to the list of issues issued by your Committee within three months of notification, pursuant to Article (36/2) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons**

with Disabilities. The State party's report should address all matters relating to Articles (1–33) of the Convention in a clear, specific, and detailed manner, accompanied by timelines and effective mechanisms to ensure the transition from commitments to practical implementation. It should further consolidate the protection and guarantee of the rights of persons with disabilities, reaffirm the principles of equality, non-discrimination, dignity, and inclusion, and explicitly ensure the meaningful participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in all stages of preparation and implementation.

2. Consider the concrete and detailed practical recommendations contained in **QADER's** report submitted to your Committee regarding the list of issues related to the initial report of the State of Palestine. These recommendations were comprehensively and systematically formulated for each of the issues raised by the Committee, following the same sequence and methodology as the list of issues. This should be complemented by the recommendations presented by **QADER** in its oral briefings before your Committee, as well as the additional observations and recommendations contained in the present urgent follow-up report. The serious consideration of all these observations and recommendations will contribute to urgent structural reforms and strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities both in situations of armed conflict and in times of peace, within a rights-based and disability-inclusive approach, ensuring the effective participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in all stages of planning, implementation, and accountability mechanisms.

3. Activate Article (6) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which the State of Palestine acceded on 10 April 2019, by formally announcing the establishment of an international commission of inquiry, composed of members of your esteemed Committee, into the grave violations and international crimes perpetrated against persons with disabilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip. The commission should promptly produce a comprehensive report on its work, guided by a disability-inclusive approach, given its critical importance for monitoring, documentation, accountability, and effective redress. Such a report would enable United Nations bodies and mechanisms to draw upon its findings and recommendations within a disability-inclusive framework, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council in 2021, as well as relevant international, regional, and local organizations in Palestine, in light of the ongoing marginalization of disability in United Nations and international reports and statements.

4. Call upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, to convene an international conference of States Parties to the Convention, pursuant to Articles (11) and (40) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with a view to adopting urgent measures to protect and assist persons with disabilities in the face of systematic starvation policies, ongoing crimes of genocide, and other international crimes, and the

devastating impact they are having on persons with disabilities in the occupied Palestinian territory. In this context, QADER reaffirms its full readiness to engage in close and constructive cooperation with your esteemed Committee on all matters related to the international conference and the proposed international commission of inquiry, with a view to advancing accountability and redress and ensuring that perpetrators of crimes are not left unpunished.

5. Emphasize the importance of establishing effective and institutionalized **communication between your Committee and organizations representing persons with disabilities in Palestine**, to draw upon their reports, research papers, and the verified facts, testimonies, analyses, findings, and recommendations they contain, thereby reinforcing adherence to the Convention. In this regard, **QADER** notes that its reports submitted to your Committee, along with other studies transmitted at the request of certain members of the Committee, have included dozens of testimonies documented by its field team operating in Gaza since the onset of the hostilities on 7 October 2023 and continuing to date. **These testimonies are of particular importance in strengthening accountability and redress and in ensuring their integration into monitoring mechanisms and relevant international reports.**

6. Enhance efforts in monitoring, documentation, and accountability through the lens of disability inclusion, given its critical importance for advocacy and for ensuring accountability for grave violations and international crimes committed against persons with disabilities, particularly since the onset of the aggression on 7 October 2023. **QADER affirms that it has developed a comprehensive and unique guidance manual on monitoring, documentation, and accountability from a disability-inclusive perspective, in line with United Nations monitoring standards and the standards of the International Criminal Court, which it will share with your esteemed Committee at the request of several of its members.** QADER hopes that this manual will serve as an important reference document to ensure the quality of evidence, strengthen accountability and redress, and contribute to the advancement of international justice.

7. Strengthen the efforts of your esteemed Committee in engaging and coordinating with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council in 2021 on violations and crimes committed in the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as relevant international organizations, to ensure the integration of a disability perspective across all their work, reports, and mechanisms. This should guarantee that the rights of persons with disabilities are an integral part of monitoring, documentation, and accountability efforts, reinforce the coherence of United Nations actions in the protection of rights, and **prevent the marginalization of disability in any future reports or statements of the United Nations.**

8. Deliver comprehensive briefings to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations on the humanitarian catastrophe undermining the full spectrum of rights of persons

with disabilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, in the context of ongoing crimes of genocide, policies of starvation and deprivation of water, forced displacement and apartheid, which pose a serious threat to the lives, future and well-being of persons with disabilities in Palestine. **Such briefings should serve as an entry point to strengthen international accountability, ensure that disability is not marginalized in any United Nations mechanisms or future reports, and advance international justice.**