Recommendations for action and people of concern: Shadow Reports from Canada under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2016-2017

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Overview

This paper provides a summary of concerns that civil society organizations expressed in the Shadow Reports (Parallel Reports) they submitted to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the fall of 2016 and first half of 2017. Those submissions were framed in response to Canada's First Periodic Report (2014) under the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) and Canada's follow-up responses in March of 2017 to questions the Committee had raised in September of 2016. Most of the organizations that submitted reports under the CRPD have mandates related to improving the social and economic situations of people with disabilities. As a baseline for comparison, we have also included a summary of the concerns that the UN Committee expressed in its May 2017 *Concluding observations on the initial report of Canada.* That document contained the Committee's responses to the organizations' and the Government of Canada's submissions, in light of the Committee's interpretations of the CRPD's obligations for States Parties.

Our main reason for undertaking this project was to answer the following research questions:

- Which CRPD Articles and associated subject matters have received most attention from civil society organizations in Canada?
- What kinds of governmental actions do the organizations typically call for as means of addressing their issues of concern?
- Which people do the organizations frequently mention as warranting particular attention?
- How do the organizations' priorities for action line up against the Concluding Comments that the UN Committee presented to Canada? Is there basic congruence between the priorities articulated by the organizations and by the Committee?
- Can a reasonably efficient and comprehensive methodology be developed and used to summarize submissions under the CRPD for the purpose of answering these and other research questions in the future?

What follows are findings based on our content analysis of the documentation described above, as well as a thumbnail sketch of the methodology that we developed and used. The Appendices provide fuller details on the methodology and other matters of interest.

Method in Brief

Scope

We analyzed and coded the 14 reports which 39 civil society organizations submitted to the UN Committee. Eleven organizations submitted their own reports. Two organizations jointly submitted one, nine jointly submitted another and seventeen jointly submitted a third. The submissions and their authoring organizations are listed in Appendix A. For comparative purposes, we also analyzed and coded the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee.

Our analytical approach focused on the recommendations the organizations presented in their Shadow Reports, in relation to each Article to which a given recommendation pertained. A full list of CRPD Articles is provided in Appendix B. Some organizations presented recommendations under many Articles whereas other organizations presented recommendations under one or two only. No organization touched upon all the Articles, and some Articles received little or no attention from any organization. Overall, the organizations' submissions typically dealt with matters that fell within Articles 4 through 33, which have been adopted as the parameters for the present paper. Very few organizations made comments or recommendations pertaining to the Preamble or Articles 1 – 3. Where an organization had comments relating to those sections of the Convention, we linked those to Article 4 (general obligations). We did not scrutinize Articles 34 – 50 or any of the articles in the Optional Protocol, which deal mainly with administrative matters and which were not at the focus of the civil society organizations' attention.

Major analytical units

We developed an Excel Workbook with a dedicated Worksheet for each organization that submitted a report to the UN Committee. We divided each Worksheet into 30 major sections, each of which corresponded with a CRPD Article, from 4 through 33.

For each CRPD Article, we used a coding scheme that we developed which consisted of over 1,300 blank cells for receiving data. The scheme allowed us to flag the concerns the organizations raised across two basic dimensions. Dimension A consists of the groups of people, geographic regions and governmental jurisdictions that the organizations placed at the focus of their attention for a given Article. Dimension B reflects the actions that the organizations recommended in relation to these people, regions and jurisdictions under the same Article.

Dimension A of our coding template was subdivided into the following broad characteristics of the people, regions and governmental jurisdictions:

- The age group of the people at the focus of attention;
- The gender / gender identity of the people at the focus of attention;
- The geographic region or governmental jurisdiction at the focus of attention;
- Whether the people at the focus of attention were poor / low income / jobless;

- High-level flags to indicate whether the issue at the focus of attention had implications for racialized, Indigenous or other ethno-racially diverse people;
- The impairments or "disabilities" of the people at the focus of attention.

Dimension B of our coding template was subdivided into broad categories which reflected whether an action the organization had recommended was about:

- Ensuring equal protections for the rights articulated in the Article;
- Ensuring freedom from discrimination against exercising the Article's rights;
- Ensuring necessary conditions are in place for individuals to gain access to and exercise rights enshrined in the Article;
- Strengthening the capacity of systems, programs, workplaces and other dimensions of the local community to ensure the rights enshrined in the Article will be realized;
- Other issues related to the rights enshrined in the Article.[1]

Dimension B corresponds with several societal levels on which interventions typically apply: the *broad societal level* that affects many activities across multiple domains of activity; the *community-system level* (service-system, community programs, schools, workplaces, places for commerce and leisure, etc.), which affects activities in the local communities where people live, work, learn, recreate and so on; the *individual person level;* and a *level between the broad societal and community-system* level which directly involves actions taken by governments and other stakeholders at the broad societal and community levels, which in turn have repercussions at the individual person level. Appendix C ("Basic structure of the coding scheme…") provides a diagram of the relationships between these categories.

Most of the broad categories in Dimensions A and B were further subdivided as shown in Text Tables 1 and 2.

[1] We also created a field that we could have used to flag whether an organization's submission dealt with a given Article in a general way, i.e., without delving into specific concerns or recommended actions. This field was not used, however, as the submissions we reviewed all dealt in some detail with the Articles the organizations touched upon.

Text Table 1. Coding template: Dimension A subcategories

In general	People in general (regardless of disability)
Age	Children (and parents)
	Youth
	Working-age
	Seniors 65 years +
	General - Age appropriate
Gender and gender identity	Women (and girls)
	Men
	LGBTQ2S
	General - Gender sensitive
Geography / jurisdiction	Federal / national
	Pan-Canadian
	Provincial / territorial / regional
	Urban
	Rural / remote
	Geographic - General
Economic status	Low income / poor / jobless
Race and ethnicity	Indigenous persons
	Racialized people
	Newcomers / migrants
	Refugees
	General - Ethno-racially sensitive
Diverse impairments / "disabilities"	Psychosocial
	Deaf
	Hard-of-hearing
	Deaf-blind
	Blind
	Visual impairment
	Communicating
	Mobility
	Agility / flexibility
	Cognitive
	Learning Disability
	Intellectual disability
	ASD
	Memory
	Other
	General – All / any disabilities

Text Table 2. Coding template: Dimension B subcategories

▪ Ensuring equal protections for these rights

Adopt / target measures (e.g., strategy, program)
Institute / review / amend legislation
Institute / review / amend regulations
Institute / review / amend policy
Promulgate guidelines / standards
Designate leadership / responsibility
Exercise leadership
Coordinate efforts / collaborate
Allocate funding
Monitor / conduct research / report
Evaluate performance / assess
Collect / provide (disaggregated) data

▪ Ensuring freedom from discrimination against exercising these rights

Institute affirmative action / other rights-/inclusion-focused programming
Modify/abolish exclusionary, discriminatory or coercive laws, regulations, stereotypes, attitudes, customs and practices (address barriers)

▪ Ensuring necessary conditions are in place for individuals' access to and exercise of these rights

Ensure provision of direct service / support
Ensure provision of suitable technology
Ensure provision of modified (incl. timing of) routines
Ensure provision of other / various accommodations
Ensure provision of other needed deliverables / resources (incl. $$)
Train individuals on rights, opportunities, skills, etc.
Provide accessible information to individuals (and families)

▪ Strengthening systems-/ program-/ community- capacity to ensure the realization of these rights

Train / educate professionals and service providers
Promulgate practice standards
Institute policies/programs to ensure provision of accommodations
Engage disability organizations in design, providing sup't, monitoring, research, etc.
Fund (or otherwise support) disability organizations
Engage other civil society / professional / human rights orgs.

▪ Other related issues

(▪ Report deals with the Article in a general way)

Appendix D provides an example of a blank coding template for Article 4 of the Convention.

Scoring and weighting

In reference to a given CRPD Article, where an organization recommended that an action be taken (e.g., ensure provision of direct service / support) to remedy human rights difficulties a particular group of people was experiencing (e.g., people with psychosocial disabilities), we placed a "1" in the cell that corresponded with this action (Dimension B) and group of people (Dimension A). Where the organization also specified which level of government should take the action to remedy the difficulty (e.g., federal) we also placed a 1 in the cell(s) for the implicated level(s) of government on the same row as for the recommended action and intended group.

It was common for an organization to recommend that several actions be taken to remedy problems experienced by several groups of people in reference to the same CRPD Article, e.g., for Article 27, which pertains to employment and which affects many people with disabilities. Accordingly, a coded page for an organization could have several 1s for a given Article.

For organizations that represented a particular group of people (e.g., the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network Canada), we assigned a weight of "1" for whichever cells we filled in for the recommendations. However, where a national consortium represented more two or more national or provincial organizations, we weighted the cell values to corresponded with the number of organizations that made up the consortium. For instance, the Canadian Civil Society Parallel Report Group consisted of 17 organizations, 15 of which had a focus on disability and two of which were other civil society organizations (the Canadian Labour Congress and Canada without Poverty). We accorded each of this organization's coded cells a value of 17 in our template. The reasoning was that if all 17 organizations had submitted their own reports identical to the one that the consortium submitted, we would have had the same numerical result by using 1s for 17 separate organizations' reports.

"Points of concern"

For the present discussion, we define each of the cells that we coded as "points of concern". To simplify the language in the present report, we have used that phrase interchangeably with "concerns".

Interpretation

Generally, the organizations' framed their recommendations in reference to CRPD Articles that the organizations explicitly named. However, the analysis and recommendations of some organizations sometimes spanned more than one Article for a particular point of discussion. Sometimes the recommendations did not specify which recommendations pertained to which Article(s) and, in some cases, the organizations did not explicitly mention any CRPD Article for a recommendation at all. In these cases, we tied the recommendations to Articles that seemed the best matches.

Overall, we tried to avoid this kind of interpretation and relied instead on what the organizations said concerning the people, actions and levels of government at the focus of

concern for each explicitly-mentioned Article. As we were unable to completely avoid engaging in interpretation, we adhered to a few simple rules, which are discussed in Appendix E.

Summarizing the results

The aim of this exercise was to look at high-level patterns in the concerns raised by civil society organizations in relation to the CRPD and use as a comparator the UN Committee's Concluding Observations. In order to answer our research questions, we constructed summary tables and charts for each organization. The tables and charts captured the totality of each organization's responses by:

- The CRPD Article number(s) that the organization placed at the focus of attention (1 table and chart per organization);
- The general actions (1 table and chart per organization) and the more detailed actions (1 table and chart per organization) that each organization considered necessary;
- The people who the organization mentioned as requiring particular attention, and the levels of government that the organization believed should be involved in addressing the issues the organization raised (1 table and chart per organization).

For comparative purposes in the charts, we included and held constant the data obtained from our coding of the UN Committee's Concluding Observations. Each chart and table took as its starting point the raw numbers of recommended actions, then converted those counts to percentages, which were based on the total number of recommendations a given organization presented. The percentages provided a common base for comparisons.

However, this level of detail was difficult to interpret and discuss across multiple organizations. Accordingly, we constructed several metadata tables and charts to summarize the information that fed into each of the above-listed tables and charts. These tables and charts provide high-level summaries of the overall patterns in the responses for all organizations taken together. Again, we converted all raw counts to percentages and held constant the UN Committee's directions for the purposes of comparison. Those high-level summary tables are the bases for the findings we present in the following section. Detailed counts and the associated percentages for the metadata can be found in Appendix Tables 1 – 3 in Appendix F.

Findings

CRPD Articles that received attention

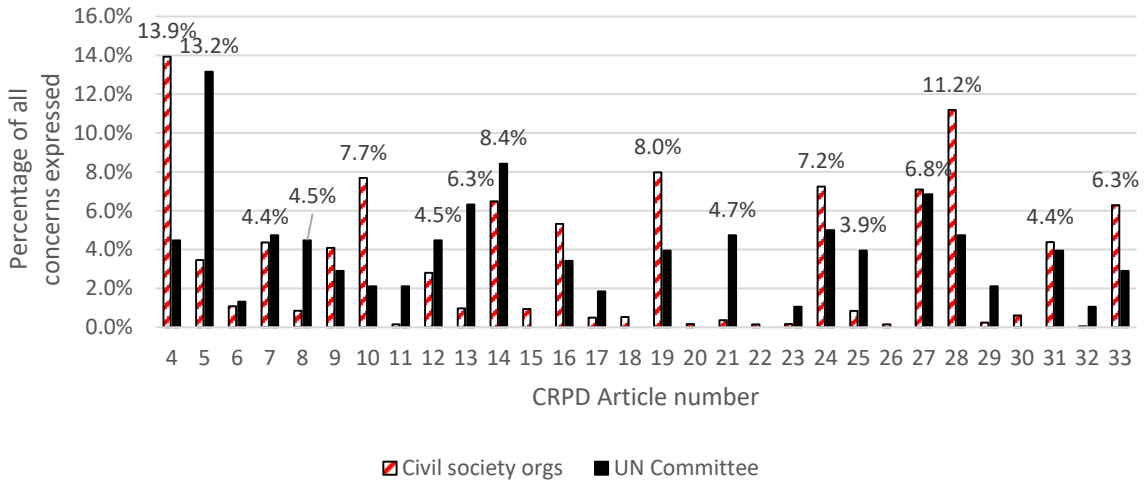
Chart 1 shows the CRPD Articles on which the civil society organizations focused attention. Appendix Table 1 provides details. Compared with the UN Committee, the organizations' concerns tended to revolve around Articles 5 (general obligations – 13.9% vs 4.5%), 28 (adequate standard of living and social protection – 11.2% vs 4.7%), 19 (living independently and being included in the community – 8% vs 3.9%), 10 (right to life – 7.7% vs 2.1%), 24 (education – 7.2% vs 5%) and 27 (work and employment – 7.1% vs 6.8%). The civil society organizations expressed considerably more frequent concerns than the Committee about national implementation and monitoring of the Convention (Article 33 – 6.3% vs 2.9%), and a comparatively lower but still substantial level of concern about Article 14 (liberty and security of persons – 6.5% vs 8.4%).

The UN Committee framed many of its recommendations in relation to Article 5 (equality and non-discrimination – 13.2% vs 3.5%), 14 (liberty and security of persons – 8.4% vs 6.5%), 27 (employment – 6.8% vs 7.1%) and 13 (access to justice – 6.3% vs 1%).

The organizations and the UN Committee expressed similar levels of concern about Articles 27 (work and employment – 7.1% and 6.8%, respectively), 7 (children with disabilities – 4.4% and 4.7%) and 31 (statistics and data collection – 4.4% and 3.9%). Both also expressed similar but low levels of concern about Article 6 (women with disabilities – 1.1% and 1.3%). However, as will be shown below, the organizations and the Committee expressed frequent concerns about women and girls across many CRPD Articles instead of framing those concerns exclusively in relation to Article 6.

Although there were differences in the levels of concern the organizations and the Committee expressed for various Articles, the common five among the top ten Articles of concern for the organizations and the Committee were Articles 4 (general obligations), 14 (liberty and security of persons), 24 (education), 27 (work and employment) and 28 (adequate standard of living).

Chart 1. Summary of CRPD Articles receiving attention, showing respective percentages of all points of concern expressed in civil society groups' Shadow Reports and in the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilit



Recommended actions

The research grouped scores for the actions which the organizations and the UN Committee recommended according to the broad bolded headings shown in Text Table 2. Chart 2 presents the results and Appendix Table 2 provides details under each of the broad headings. The chart shows greater preference among the organizations than within the Committee for actions that would ensure equal protections for rights (61.7% vs 47.6%). The organizations and the Committee expressed about the same level of interest in actions that would ensure freedom from discrimination in the exercise of rights (7.4% and 7.9%, respectively). The organizations were less likely overall than the Committee to recommend actions that would ensure the necessary conditions are in place for individuals to gain acces to and exercise rights (12.8% vs 20%), and which would strengthen community-systems capacity to ensure the realization of rights (12.2% vs 21.8%). The organizations were more apt to recommend various other actions that were related to rights under the CRPD (5.9% vs 2.6%). For instance, a couple of organizations stressed the importance of enforcing existing laws and standards. Another stressed the importance of addressing the discriminatory effects that “experience ratings” within workers’ compensation programs have in biasing employers’ decisions about the workers they will hire.

Chart 2. Broad aims of recommended actions under the CRPD, as percentages of all concerns requiring recommended action in civil society groups' Shadow Reports and the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

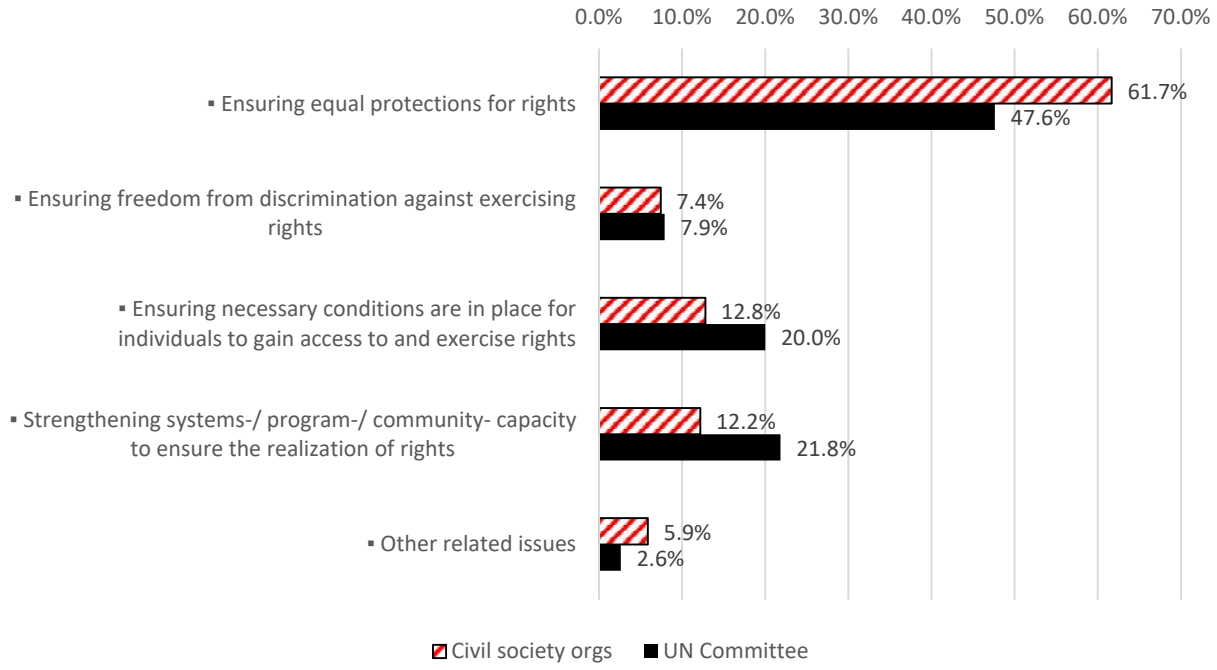


Chart 3 shows the details that Appendix Table 2 also provides and which Chart 2 summarized. Chart 3 shows that, overall, the UN Committee was more likely than the organizations to recommend that Canada adopt or target measures (e.g., strategies or programs) to remedy rights-related concerns (8.2% vs 7.5% of recommended actions, respectively). The Committee was also more likely to recommend that Canada engage in monitoring, research and reporting on rights (10.3% vs 5.1%), ensure provision of direct services / supports (8.4% vs 5.5%) and various other direct benefits for individuals, ensure the training / education of professionals and service providers (7.9% vs 2%) and engage disability organizations in the design, support-provision, rights-monitoring and research processes (6.1% vs 4.2%).

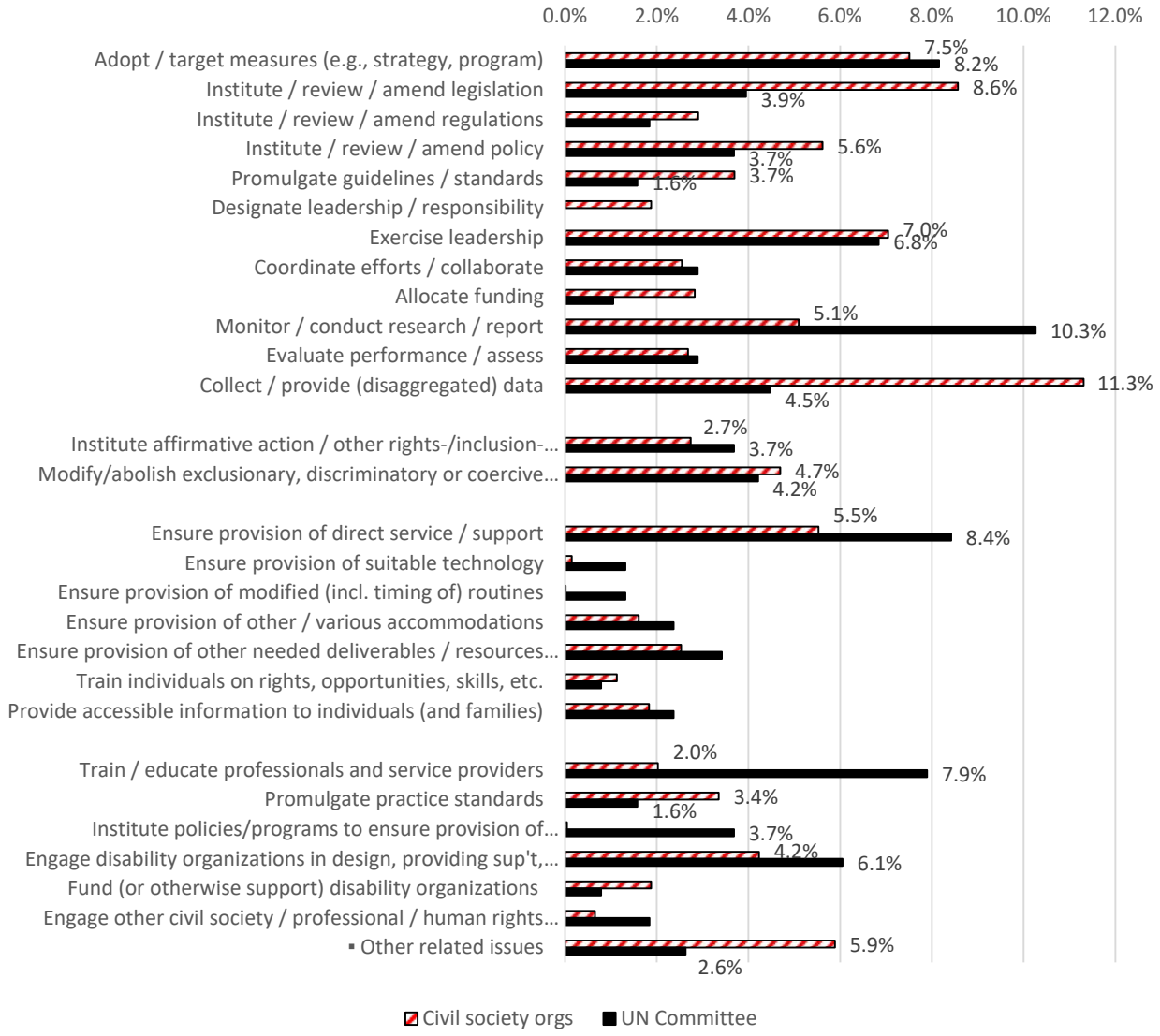
For their part, the organizations were more inclined to emphasize the importance of legislative actions (8.6% vs 3.9%), policy actions (5.6% vs 3.7%), high-level guidelines and standards (3.7% vs 1.6%) and practice standards at the community-systems level (3.4% vs 1.6%).

Even though Article 31 (statistics and data collection) reflected only 4.4% of the civil society organizations' concerns, looking across the Articles of the Convention, the organizations were much more likely than the Committee to emphasize the importance of data collection and dissemination (11.3% of all concerns vs 4.5% for the Committee).

The organizations were about as likely as the Committee to emphasize the importance of governments exercising leadership on the Convention (7% and 6.8% of all concerns, respectively) and the need to address barriers through the modification/abolition of exclusionary, discriminative or coercive laws, regulations, stereotypes, attitudes, customs and practices (4.7% and 4.2%, respectively). However, the organizations were unlikely – and less likely than the Committee – to express support for affirmative-action, inclusion-focused and similar programs or campaigns as tools for ensuring the exercise of rights and freedom from discrimination among people with disabilities (2.7% vs 3.7%, respectively).

The data revealed some differences across the CRPD Articles in terms of how the civil society organizations and the UN Committee prioritized needed actions in the areas of data and research, i.e., in 1) monitoring, researching and reporting under the Convention; 2) in evaluating program and other impacts; and 3) in the collection and dissemination of data. Taken together, however, the results were substantial and similar across the organizations and the Committee: recommendations across these three lines of action represented 19.1% of all the organizations' concerns and 17.6% of the Committee's.

Chart 3. Summary of recommended actions under the CRPD, as percentages of all recommended actions in Canadian civil society groups' Shadow Rports and in the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



People at the focus of concern

Chart 4 provides a summary of the people who were featured in the recommendations of civil society organizations and the UN Committee.[2] To keep the graphic elements balanced, Chart 4 excludes people with disabilities in general, who were a major concern for organizations

[2] We filtered out of this analysis concerns of the organizations and the UN Committee that pinpointed the federal and provincial/territorial levels of government for action.

(featured in 24.4% of their recommendations) and the Committee (featured in 22.4%).[3] For civil society organizations, the six groups of people who garnered the most frequent attention in the recommendations were children with disabilities and their families (10.8% vs 9% for the Committee), Indigenous people (9% vs 10.6%), the population in general, e.g., as the focus of awareness-raising, training and other initiatives (6.9% vs 9.8%), women and girls (6.4% vs 8.2%), people who are Deaf (5.8% vs 4.7%) and people with disabilities who live in poverty, on low incomes or are tenuously attached to employment (5.6% vs 0.8%). Civil society organizations' recommendations dedicated more attention than the Committee's to people who are Deaf-blind (1.9 vs 1.2%) and blind (2.8% vs 0.8%).

With the exception of poor/low income people with disabilities, civil society organizations and the UN Committee seemed in agreement that the population-at-large and people with disabilities in general are important focuses of attention. However, both also seemed to agree that attention to people with disabilities needs to take explicit account of the situations of children and Indigenous people with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and Deaf people. There was also considerable interest across the organizations in people with psychosocial disabilities (featured in 4.6% of civil society recommendations and 3.5% of the Committee's). And while people with an intellectual disability were featured in 4.3% of the Committee's recommendations, people with some form of cognitive disability were featured in 3.8 of the recommendations of civil society organizations.

The Committee devoted considerably more attention to migrants/newcomers (4.7% vs 0.2%) and refugees (3.5% vs 0.2%). Civil society organizations did, however, point to the importance of interventions that are sensitive to race and ethnicity in 3.4% of their recommendations (vs 1.2%) and acknowledged that racialized people face particular difficulties (0.7% vs no mention by the Committee).

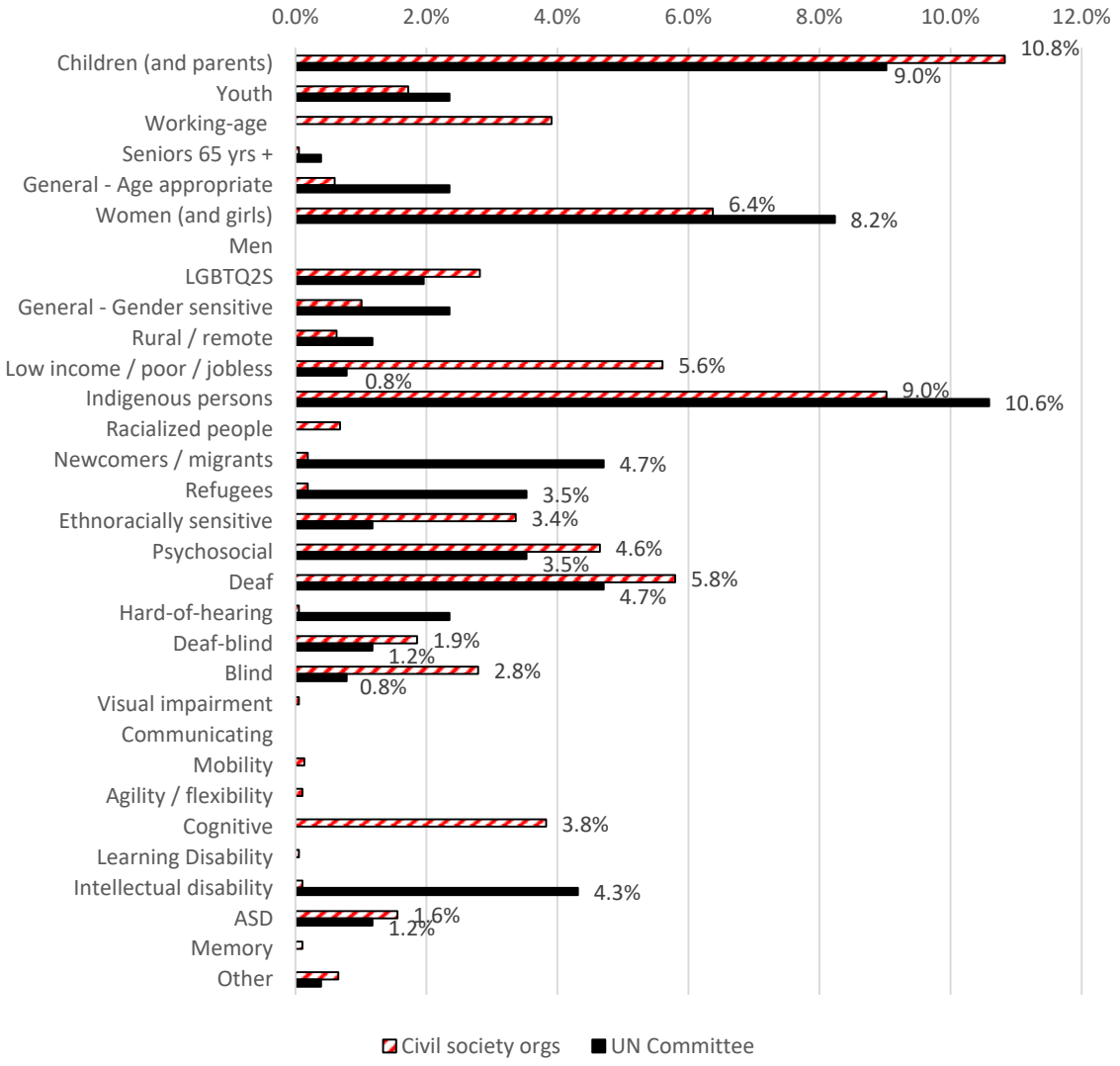
While the organizations and the Committee acknowledged difficulties youth with disabilities experience, neither provided many recommendations that focused explicitly on youth (1.7% and 2.4%, respectively).

Neither the organizations nor the Committee made significant mention of people with disabilities in the areas of mobility or agility/flexibility. It would be difficult for the organizations and governments in Canada to ignore such individuals, however, as large numbers of people with disabilities in this country indicate the presence of difficulties in one or both of these areas (Morris, Fawcett, Brisebois, & Hughes, 2018). Of some interest and perhaps concern, neither the organizations' nor the UN Committee's recommendations mentioned people with Learning Disabilities or communication disabilities. And overall the recommendations dedicated relatively little attention to youth and even less to seniors. There are over half a million youths (15 to 24 years) with disabilities in Canada and disability becomes increasingly common as

[3] The inclusion of people with disabilities in general on the chart would have overwhelmed the other graphic elements.

people age; over a third of all people with disabilities in Canada are seniors 65 years or older. Nor did the organizations or the Committee express major levels of concern about people with disabilities with low incomes or living in poverty, even though poverty and low income are known to be disproportionately widespread problems for people with disabilities in Canada, particularly for people with more severe levels of impairment (Morris et al.).

Chart 4. People at the focus of concern under the CRPD, as a % of all articulated concerns, in civil society groups' Shadow Reports and in the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



Conclusion

The results generated for this research suggest that the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' priorities for remedying human rights concerns in Canada are similar to but not entirely congruent with those put forward by civil society organizations in this country. Compared with the UN Committee, the organizations' concerns tended to revolve around Articles 5 (general obligations), 28 (adequate standard of living and social protection), 19 (living independently and being included in the community), 10 (right to life), 24 (education) and 27 (work and employment). The organizations expressed considerably more frequent concerns than the Committee about national implementation and monitoring of the Convention (Article 33), and a comparatively lower but still substantial level of concern about Article 14 (liberty and security of persons).

Although there were differences in the levels of concern the organizations and the Committee expressed under various Articles, the common five among the top ten Articles of concern for the organizations *and* for the Committee were Articles 4 (general obligations), 14 (liberty and security of persons), 24 (education), 27 (work and employment) and 28 (adequate standard of living).

Concerning needed actions, the organizations tended to be more interested than the Committee in legislative and policy reforms, in the promulgation of high-level standards and community-level standards of practice for ensuring the wider realization of the human rights of people with disabilities, and in addressing barriers through the modification/abolition of exclusionary, discriminative or coercive laws, regulations, stereotypes, attitudes, customs and practices. The organizations were somewhat less interested than the Committee in adopting or targeting existing measures (e.g., strategies or programs) to remedy rights-related concerns, or in affirmative-action, inclusion-focused and similar programs or campaigns as tools for ensuring the exercise of rights and freedom from discrimination among people with disabilities.

While there were notable differences in terms of the levels of concern behind the actions the organizations and the Committee recommended, both emphasized the importance of governments exercising leadership on the Convention and expressed a high level of concern for action on data and research under the CRPD.

Civil society organizations and the UN Committee also seemed in agreement that the population-at-large and people with disabilities in general are both important focuses of attention. However, the organizations and the Committee both seemed to agree that attention to people with disabilities needs to take explicit account of the situations of children and Indigenous people with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and Deaf people. There was also considerable interest across the organizations and the Committee in people with

psychosocial disabilities and people with an intellectual disability and/or other forms of cognitive disability.

The UN Committee's approach would have Canada – and probably its civil society organizations – be more attentive to the situation of migrants and refugees with disabilities. Perhaps in the future the organizations and the UN Committee will both dedicate more attention to people with Learning Disabilities, communication disabilities, youth and seniors with disabilities, and to people with disabilities who live on low incomes or in poverty.

In terms of methodology, the approach developed for the present paper yielded interesting results. The categories for coding could perhaps undergo some further refinement. Some additional rules for interpretation may be helpful. Consideration could also be given to developing a database version of the tool rather than the spreadsheet-based version. A database could provide more flexibility for cross-tabulating and reporting on details, such as the actions that organizations with concerns about youth *and* women have recommended under various CRPD Articles. That said, the tool used, here, was reasonably straightforward and efficient to apply and effective in categorizing the information contained in the submissions. We believe it would be a useful tool for coding and analyzing upcoming submissions under the Convention.

Appendices

A. Organizations' reports included in this research

Organization	Submission title	Number of national/ provincial/ territorial organizations represented (scoring weight)
Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights	Submission for Canada's Review Before the UU Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 17th Session	1
Autistic Minority International	Review of Canada: Lack of Inclusion of Autistic Voices	1
Autistic Self Advocacy Network Canada	Submission to the 16th Pre-Sessional Working Group of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	1
Canada Without Poverty	Submission Raising Issues Related to Maximum Available Resources, Domestic Implementation and Effective Legal Remedies of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights under Article 28 of the Convention	1
Canadian Civil Society Parallel Report Group[4]	Parallel Report for Canada	17
Canadian Disabled People's Organizations[5]	Meeting Canada's Obligations to Affordable Housing and Supports for People with Disabilities to Live Independently in the Community: Under Articles 19 and 28, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	9
Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) and DisAbled Women's Action	Women with Disabilities in Canada: Report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the	2

[4] Joint submitters of this report were: ARCH Disability Law Centre; Alzheimer's Society of Canada ; Canada Without Poverty; Canadian Association for Community Living; Canadian Association of the Deaf; Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work; Canadian Centre on Disability Studies; Canadian National Institute for the Blind; Canadian Labour Congress; Council of Canadians with Disabilities ; Disability Rights Promotion International, York University; DisAbled Women's Network; Independent Living Canada ; MAD Canada; Ontario Network of Injured Workers; Participation & Knowledge Translation in Childhood Disability Lab, McGill University; and People First Canada.

[5] Joint submitters of this report were: Alzheimer Society of Canada; ARCH Disability Law Centre; Canadian Association for Community Living; Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch; Council of Canadians with Disabilities; IRIS – Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society; People First of Canada; Social Rights Advocacy Centre; and Wellesley Institute.

A. Organizations' reports included in this research

Network - Réseau D'Action des Femmes Handicapées du Canada (DAWN Canada)	Occasion of the Committee's Initial Review of Canada	
Canadian Human Rights Commission	Submission to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the Occasion of Its Consideration of Canada's 1st Periodic Report	1
Disabled Women's Network of Canada / Réseau D'action des Femmes Handicapées du Canada (DAWN-RAFH Canada)	Submission of CRPD Shadow Report	1
Egale Canada Human Rights Trust	Canada: Discrimination and Violence against LGBTQI2S Persons with Disabilities	1
Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children	Briefing on Canada for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 16th session	1
Income Security Advocacy Centre	Report of the Income Security Advocacy Centre – United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Consideration of Canada's Initial Report	1
Mad Canada Shadow Report Group	Mad Canada Shadow Report – Reporting on Human Rights by the MCSR Group to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Reference to the UN-CRPD	1
Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups	UN Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability (CRPD) – Ontario Network of Injured Workers Group Submission	1
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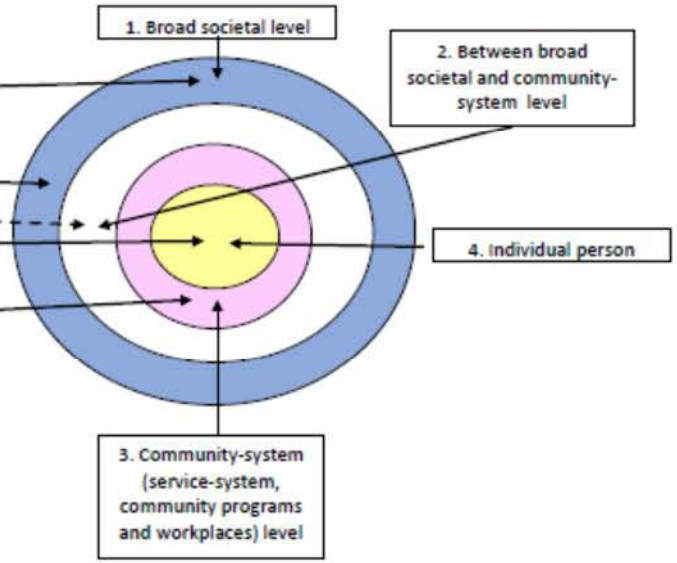
B. List of CRPD Articles

Preamble
Article 1 - Purpose
Article 2 - Definitions
Article 3 - General principles
Article 4 - General obligations
Article 5 - Equality and non-discrimination
Article 6 - Women with disabilities
Article 7 - Children with disabilities
Article 8 - Awareness-raising
Article 9 - Accessibility
Article 10 - Right to life
Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies
Article 12 - Equal recognition before the law
Article 13 - Access to justice
Article 14 - Liberty and security of persons
Article 15 - Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
Article 16 - Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse
Article 17 - Protecting the integrity of the person
Article 18 - Liberty of movement and nationality
Article 19 - Living independently and being included in the community
Article 20 - Personal mobility
Article 21 - Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information
Article 22 - Respect for privacy
Article 23 - Respect for home and the family
Article 24 - Education
Article 25 - Health
Article 26 - Habilitation and rehabilitation
Article 27 - Work and employment
Article 28 - Adequate standard of living and social protection
Article 29 - Participation in political and public life
Article 30 - Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport
Article 31 - Statistics and data collection
Article 32 - International cooperation
Article 33 - National implementation and monitoring
Article 34 - Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Article 35 - Reports by States Parties

Article 36 - Consideration of reports
Article 37 - Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee
Article 38 - Relationship of the Committee with other bodies
Article 39 - Report of the Committee
Article 40 - Conference of States Parties
Article 41 - Depositary
Article 42 - Signature
Article 43 - Consent to be bound
Article 44 - Regional integration organizations
Article 45 - Entry into force
Article 46 - Reservations
Article 47 - Amendments
Article 48 - Denunciation
Article 49 - Accessible format
Article 50 - Authentic texts

C. Basic structure of the coding scheme for each CRPD Article

For each CRPD Article		Dimension A					
		Age	Gender and gender identity	Geography / jurisdiction	Low income / poor / jobless	Race and ethnicity	Diverse impairments / "disabilities"
Dimension B	• Ensuring equal protections for these rights						
	• Ensuring freedom from discrimination against exercising these rights						
	• Ensuring necessary conditions are in place for individuals' access to and exercise of these rights						
	• Strengthening systems-/ program-/ community- capacity to ensure the realization of these rights						
	• Other related issues						
	(Submission deals with the Article in a general way)						



D. Blank coding template for Article 4

Name of Organization		Age						Gender and				Geography / jurisdict'n						$	Race and ethnicity						Diverse impairments / "disabilities"																					
Articles	In general	Children (and parents)	Youth	Working-age	Seniors 65 yrs +	General - Age appropriate	Women (and girls)	Men	LGBTQ2S	General - Gender sensitive	Federal / national	Pan-Canadian	Prov'l / territor'l / reg'l	Urban	Rural / remote	Geographic - General	Low income / poor / jobless	Indigenous persons	Racialized people	Newcomers / migrants	Refugees	Ethnoracially sensitive	Psychosocial	Deaf	Hard-of-hearing	Deaf-blind	Blind	Visual impairment	Communicating	Mobility	Agility / flexibility	Cognitive	Learning Disability	Intellectual disability	ASD	Memory	Other	General – All disabilities							
Article 4 - General obligations. Report gives explicit attention to:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
• Ensuring equal protections for these rights																																												
Adopt / target measures (e.g., strategy, program)																																												
Institute / review / amend legislation																																												
Institute / review / amend regulations																																												
Institute / review / amend policy																																												
Promulgate guidelines / standards																																												
Designate leadership / responsibility																																												
Exercise leadership																																												
Coordinate efforts / collaborate																																												
Allocate funding																																												
Monitor / conduct research / report																																												
Evaluate performance / assess																																												
Collect / provide (disaggregated) data																																												
• Ensuring freedom from discrimination against exercising these rights																																												
Institute affirmative action / other rights-/inclusion-focused programming																																												
Modify/abolish exclusionary, discriminatory or coercive laws, regulations, stereotypes, attitudes, customs and practices (barriers)																																												
• Ensuring necessary conditions are in place for individuals' access to and exercise of these rights																																												
Ensure provision of direct service / support																																												
Ensure provision of suitable technology																																												
Ensure provision of modified (incl. timing of) routines																																												
Ensure provision of other / various accommodations																																												
Ensure provision of other needed deliverables / resources (incl. $$)																																												
Train individuals on rights, opportunities, skills, etc.																																												
Provide accessible information to individuals (and families)																																												
• Strengthening systems-/ program-/ community- capacity to ensure the realization of these rights																																												
Train / educate professionals and service providers																																												
Promulgate practice standards																																												
Institute policies/programs to ensure provision of accommodations																																												
Engage disability organizations in design, providing sup't, monitoring, research, etc.																																												
Fund (or otherwise support) disability organizations																																												
Engage other civil society / professional / human rights orgs.																																												
• Other related issues																																												
• Report deals with this Article in a general way																																												

E. Rules for interpreting the submissions

In addition to the notes provided in the body of this report on the rules we followed for interpreting submissions under the CRPD, we followed a few other rules as well.

1. In many cases, the organizations' submissions included background contextual information in their submissions. This information included mini-situational reports of how people with disabilities were faring in relation to the guiding principles and stated rights of a given CRPD Article, or provided details about legislation, or relevant features of public policy and programs, etc. While we examined the contextual information, we did not draw from it when coding unless it was critical for understanding a given recommendation and to whom it applied.

2. In some cases, an organization's' submission included questions, which the organizations requested UN Committee to ask the Government of Canada to answer. One organization's questions were much more detailed and comprehensive than its recommendations; the latter served as a kind of Executive Summary of the points that were elaborated in the questions. In this case, the questions reflected the organization's concerns and implied that measures were needed to address those concerns, whether through legislation, public policy, programming or some other means. The organization was seeking answers about *the means* for addressing the issues it had raised, not about whether those issues were indeed issues to begin with. In such cases, we dealt with the questions as if they contained recommendations for action by some level of government in Canada and that the federal government was being asked to exercise leadership in sorting out who should do what to address the concerns raised.

3. In some instances, an organization's recommendations were quite clear about which order of government ought to undertake a specific action, such as the federal government for reviewing and amending details that fall within the *Canadian Human Rights Act.* Such recommendations were quite straightforward to code. In other cases, the recommendations were clear about an action that was needed but did not specify who should be responsible for taking the action. Where matters were left for "Canada" to address but without further direction, we imputed that the federal government was at the very least being asked to exercise some kind of responsibility. We did not infer that any particular action flowed from the recommendation, however. Nor did we infer that some other level of government was implicated. Instead, we constrained our coding to what the organizations actually said.

4. In some cases, organizations recommended measures were needed for "people with disabilities" as a whole. Where this was the case and the organization also advocated for

the interests of people with a specific disability, we inferred that the specific group was also implied in the organization's recommendation for people with disabilities as a whole and coded the recommendation for that detail as well as for people with disabilities in general.

5. Several organizations provided more than one submission, with earlier versions often seeming to be drafts of, or which contained information similar to, later versions. We coded the most recent versions of such documents.

F. Appendix Tables

Appendix Table 1. Number of and percentage recommendations pertaining to each CRPD Article, by civil society organizations and the UN Committee

	Civil society orgs		UN Committee	
Article #	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
4	935	13.9%	17	4.5%
5	232	3.5%	50	13.2%
6	72	1.1%	5	1.3%
7	293	4.4%	18	4.7%
8	57	0.8%	17	4.5%
9	274	4.1%	11	2.9%
10	516	7.7%	8	2.1%
11	10	0.1%	8	2.1%
12	188	2.8%	17	4.5%
13	65	1.0%	24	6.3%
14	435	6.5%	32	8.4%
15	63	0.9%	0	0.0%
16	357	5.3%	13	3.4%
17	33	0.5%	7	1.8%
18	35	0.5%	0	0.0%
19	535	8.0%	15	3.9%
20	11	0.2%	0	0.0%
21	24	0.4%	18	4.7%
22	10	0.1%	0	0.0%
23	11	0.2%	4	1.1%
24	486	7.2%	19	5.0%
25	56	0.8%	15	3.9%
26	10	0.1%	0	0.0%
27	476	7.1%	26	6.8%
28	751	11.2%	18	4.7%
29	16	0.2%	8	2.1%
30	41	0.6%	0	0.0%
31	294	4.4%	15	3.9%
32	3	0.0%	4	1.1%
33	422	6.3%	11	2.9%
All Articles covered	6,711	100.0%	380	100.0%

Appendix Table 2. Number of and percentage recommended actions pertaining to the CRPD, by civil society organizations and the UN Committee

	Civil society orgs		UN Committee	
	N	%		%
▪ Ensuring equal protections for rights				
Adopt / target measures (e.g., strategy, program)	504	7.5%	31	8.2%
Institute / review / amend legislation	575	8.6%	15	3.9%
Institute / review / amend regulations	195	2.9%	7	1.8%
Institute / review / amend policy	377	5.6%	14	3.7%
Promulgate guidelines / standards	248	3.7%	6	1.6%
Designate leadership / responsibility	126	1.9%	-	0.0%
Exercise leadership	473	7.0%	26	6.8%
Coordinate efforts / collaborate	171	2.5%	11	2.9%
Allocate funding	190	2.8%	4	1.1%
Monitor / conduct research / report	342	5.1%	39	10.3%
Evaluate performance / assess	180	2.7%	11	2.9%
Collect / provide (disaggregated) data	759	11.3%	17	4.5%
		0.0%		0.0%
▪ Ensuring freedom from discrimination against exercising rights				
Institute affirmative action / other rights-/inclusion-focused programming	184	2.7%	14	3.7%
Modify/abolish exclusionary, discriminatory or coercive laws, regulations, stereotypes, attitudes, customs and practices (barriers)	315	4.7%	16	4.2%
▪ Ensuring necessary conditions are in place for individuals to gain access to and exercise rights		0.0%		0.0%
Ensure provision of direct service / support	371	5.5%	32	8.4%
Ensure provision of suitable technology	10	0.1%	5	1.3%
Ensure provision of modified (incl. timing of) routines	1	0.0%	5	1.3%
Ensure provision of other / various accommodations	108	1.6%	9	2.4%
Ensure provision of other needed deliverables / resources (incl. $$)	170	2.5%	13	3.4%
Train individuals on rights, opportunities, skills, etc.	76	1.1%	3	0.8%
Provide accessible information to individuals (and families)	123	1.8%	9	2.4%
▪ Strengthening systems-/ program-/ community- capacity to ensure the realization of rights				
Train / educate professionals and service providers	136	2.0%	30	7.9%
Promulgate practice standards	225	3.4%	6	1.6%
Institute policies/programs to ensure provision of accommodations	3	0.0%	14	3.7%
Engage disability organizations in design, providing sup't, monitoring, research, etc.	284	4.2%	23	6.1%
Fund (or otherwise support) disability organizations	126	1.9%	3	0.8%
Engage other civil society / professional / human rights orgs.	44	0.7%	7	1.8%
▪ Other related issues	395	5.9%	10	2.6%
▪ Report deals with Articles in a general way				
All actions	6,711	100.0%	380	100.0%

Appendix Table 3. Number of and percentage recommended actions that pertained to groups of interest under the CRPD, by civil society organizations and the UN Committee

	Civil society orgs		UN Committee	
Groups of interest	N	%	N	%
People in general	251	6.9%	25	9.8%
Children (and parents)	396	10.8%	23	9.0%
Youth	63	1.7%	6	2.4%
Working-age	143	3.9%	-	0.0%
Seniors 65 yrs +	2	0.1%	1	0.4%
General - Age appropriate	22	0.6%	6	2.4%
Women (and girls)	233	6.4%	21	8.2%
Men	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
LGBTQ2S	103	2.8%	5	2.0%
General - Gender sensitive	37	1.0%	6	2.4%
Urban	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Rural / remote	23	0.6%	3	1.2%
Geographic - General	-	0.0%	2	0.8%
Low income / poor / jobless	205	5.6%	2	0.8%
Indigenous persons	330	9.0%	27	10.6%
Racialized people	25	0.7%	-	0.0%
Newcomers / migrants	7	0.2%	12	4.7%
Refugees	7	0.2%	9	3.5%
Ethno-racially diverse	123	3.4%	3	1.2%
Psychosocial disability	170	4.6%	9	3.5%
Deaf	212	5.8%	12	4.7%
Hard-of-hearing	2	0.1%	6	2.4%
Deaf-blind	68	1.9%	3	1.2%
Blind	102	2.8%	2	0.8%
Visual impairment	2	0.1%	-	0.0%
Communicating	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Mobility disability	5	0.1%	-	0.0%
Agility / flexibility disability	4	0.1%	-	0.0%
Cognitive disability	140	3.8%	-	0.0%
Learning Disability	2	0.1%	-	0.0%
Intellectual disability	4	0.1%	11	4.3%
ASD	57	1.6%	3	1.2%
Memory disability	4	0.1%	-	0.0%
Other disability	24	0.7%	1	0.4%
All / any disabilities	891	24.4%	57	22.4%
All	3.657	100.0%	255	100.0%

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Other

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