



The UN CRPD: principles and attributes

An-Sofie Leenknecht, EDF Human Rights Coordinator,
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EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

- Represents 80 million persons with disabilities in Europe
- Organisation of persons with disabilities
- Umbrella organisation with national platforms and European federations
- Represents the diversity of persons with disabilities
- Promotes the human rights of persons with disabilities at European Union & international level

OUTLINE

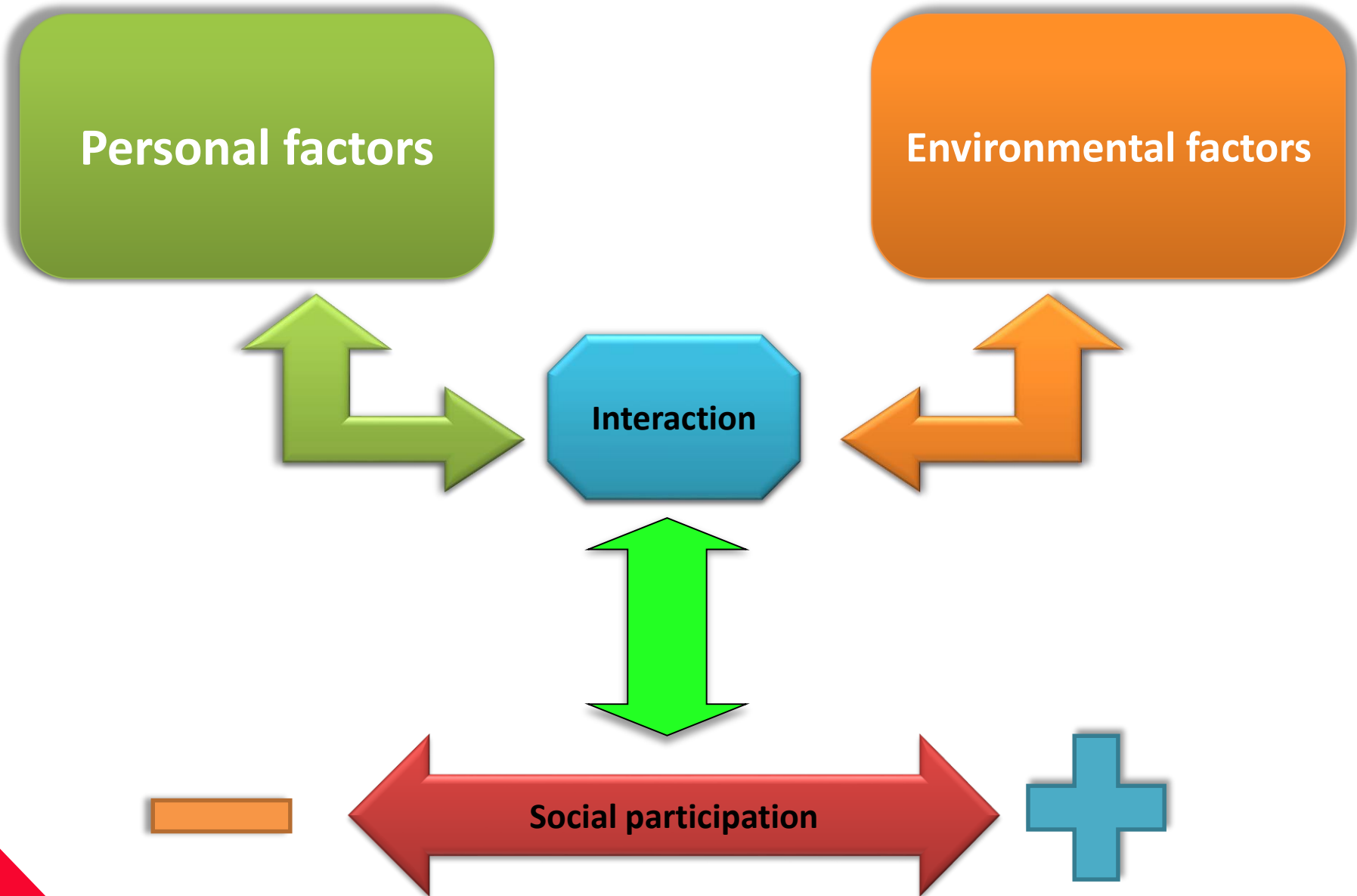
Introduction to the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities (UN CRPD)

- Approaches to disability and its evolution
- Purpose of the CRPD and whom does it protect?
- General Principles
- Who is responsible and what needs to be done?
- How is it enforced? At national and international level?

- Your comments and questions



HOW DOES DISABILITY WORK?



SOME EXAMPLES

Disability results from an **interaction** between a non-inclusive society and individuals:

A man using a wheelchair might have difficulties gaining employment not because of the wheelchair, but because there are environmental barriers such as inaccessible buses or staircases which impede access

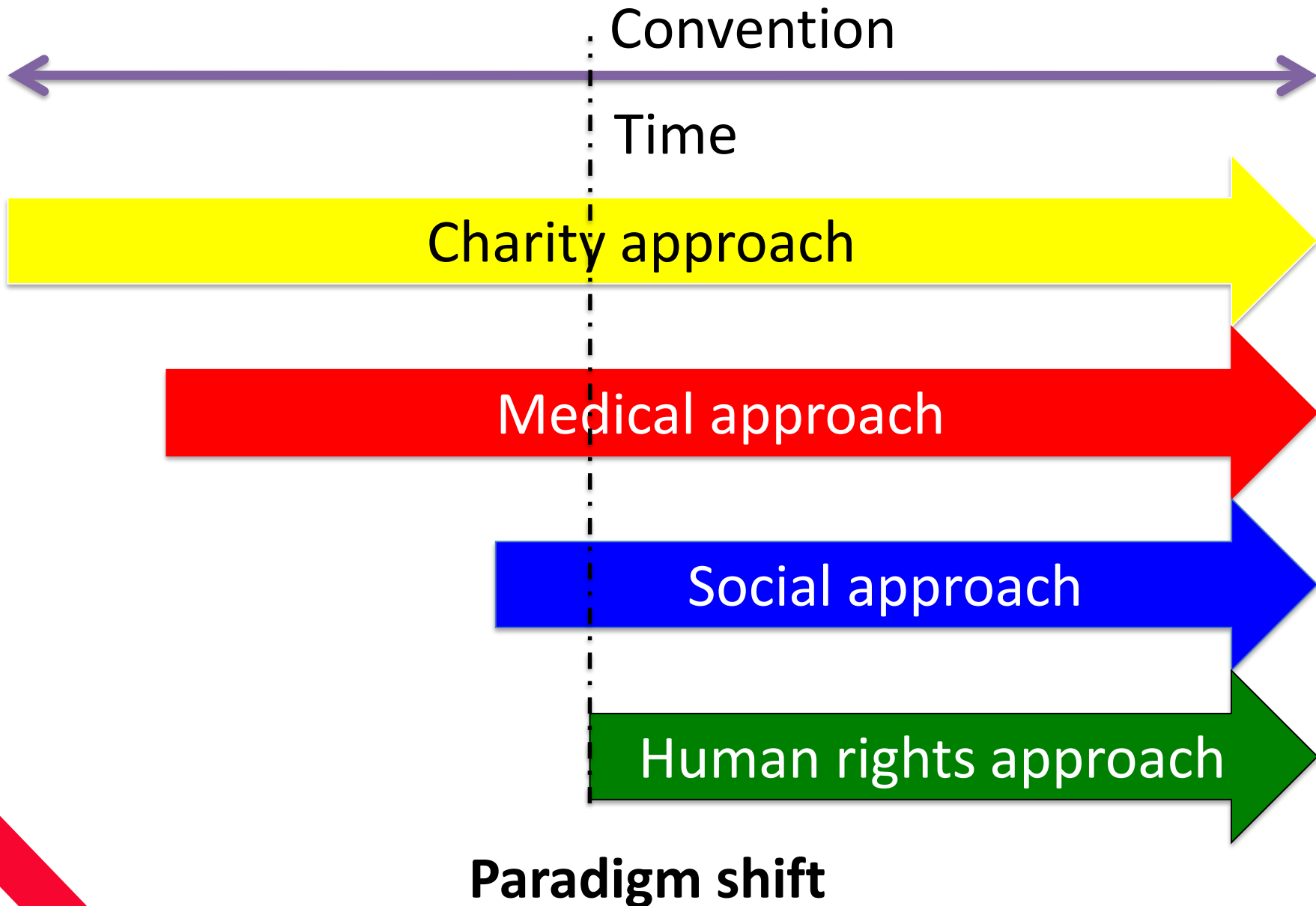


SOME EXAMPLES

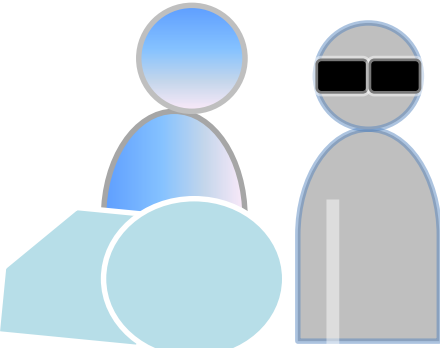
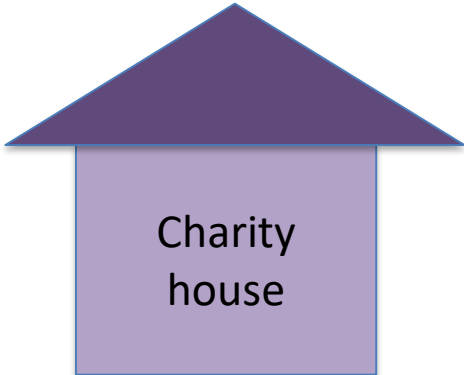
A deaf woman will not be able to have equal access to health care, unless a sign language interpreter supports her in communicating with the doctor



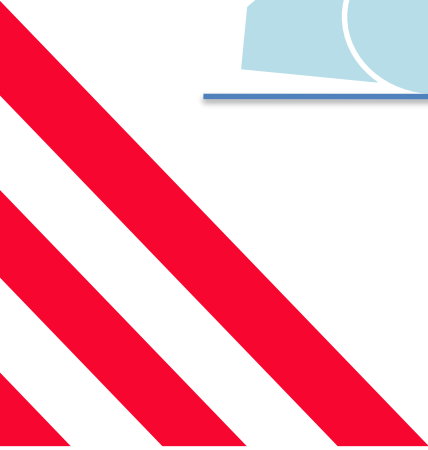
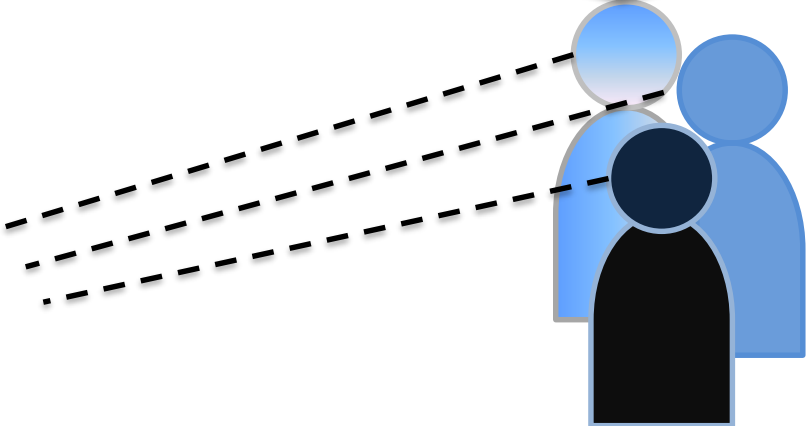
FOUR APPROACHES TO DISABILITY



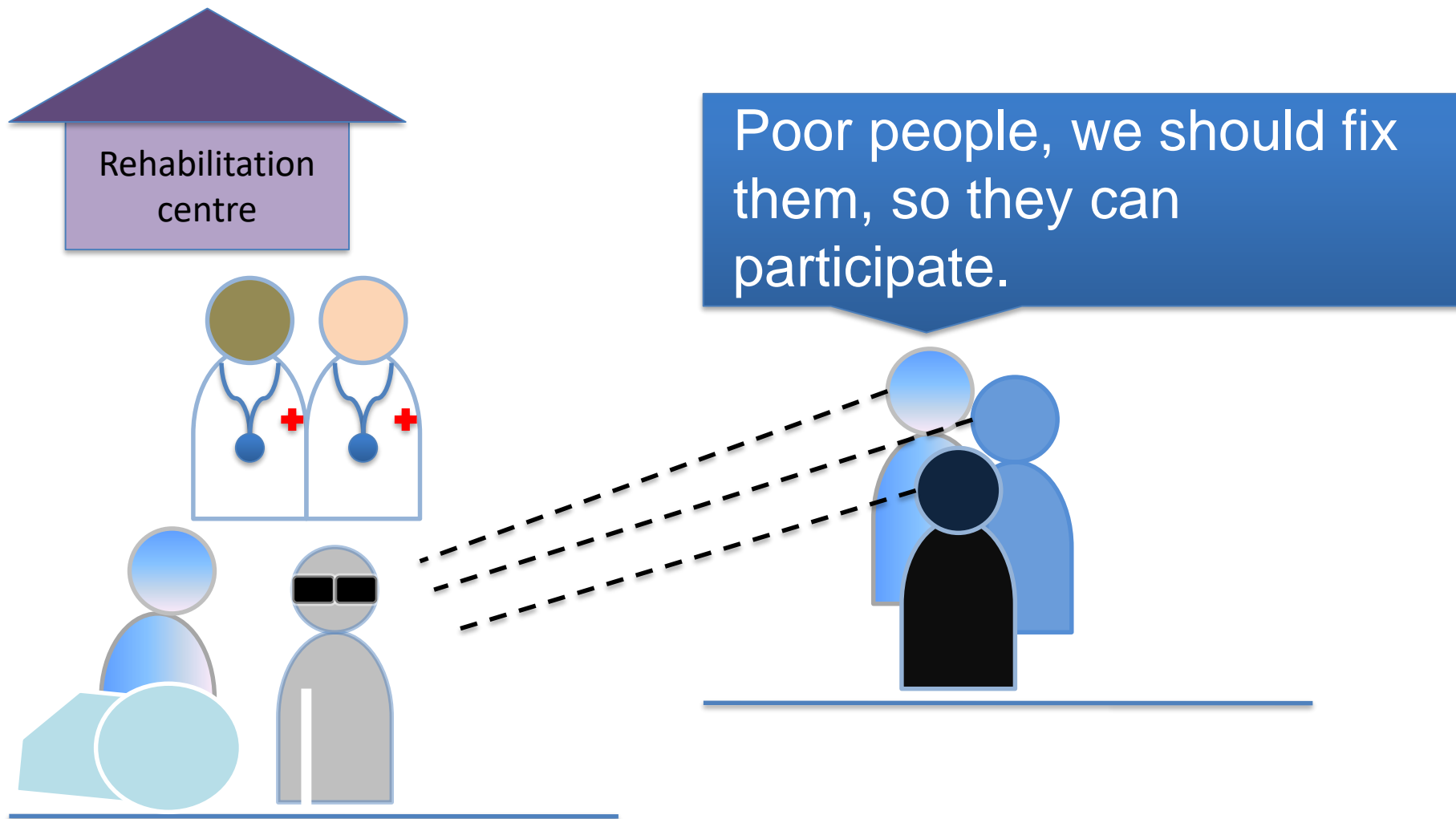
CHARITY APPROACH



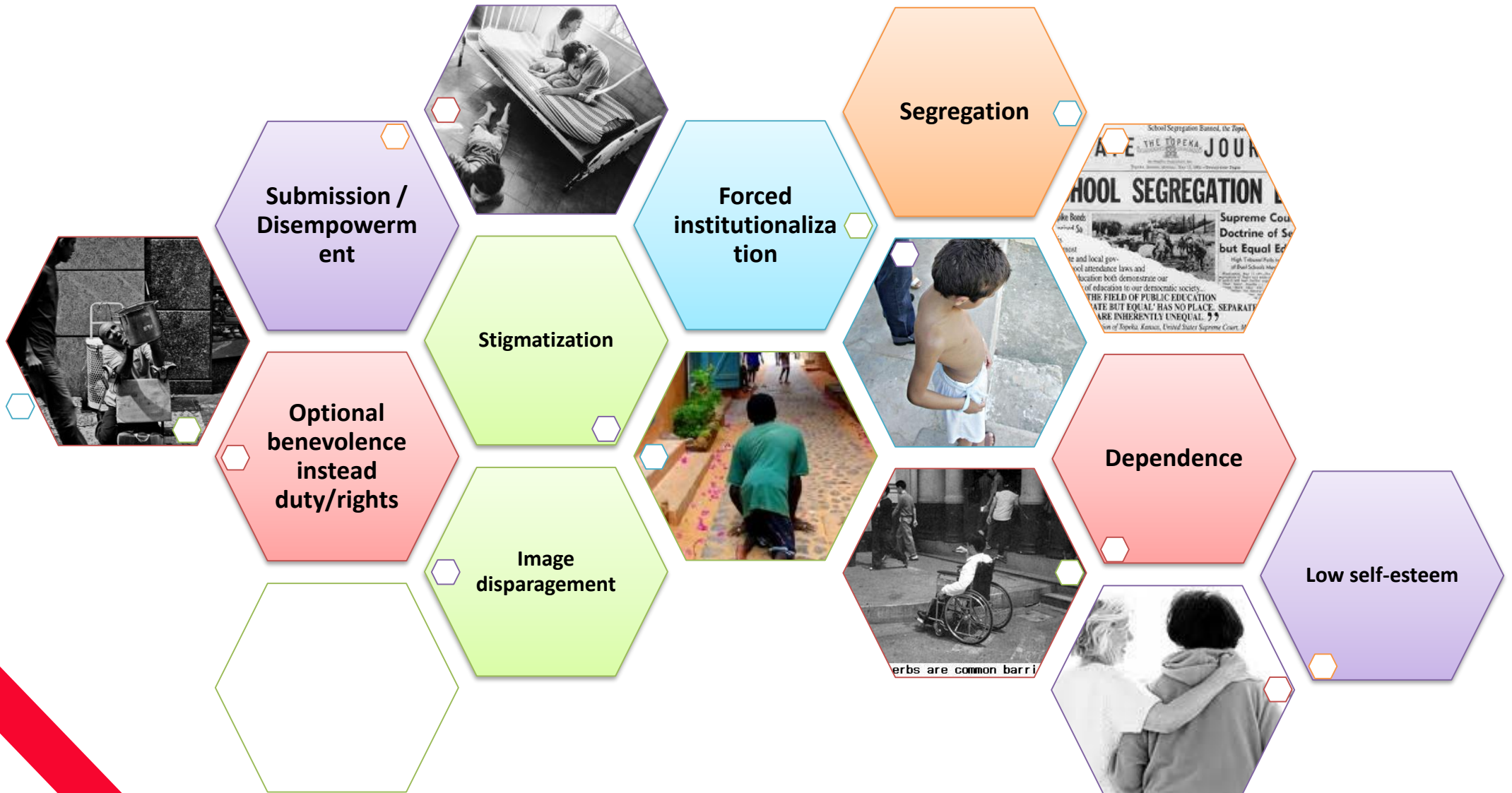
Poor people, we should help them, if we can and want to...



MEDICAL APPROACH

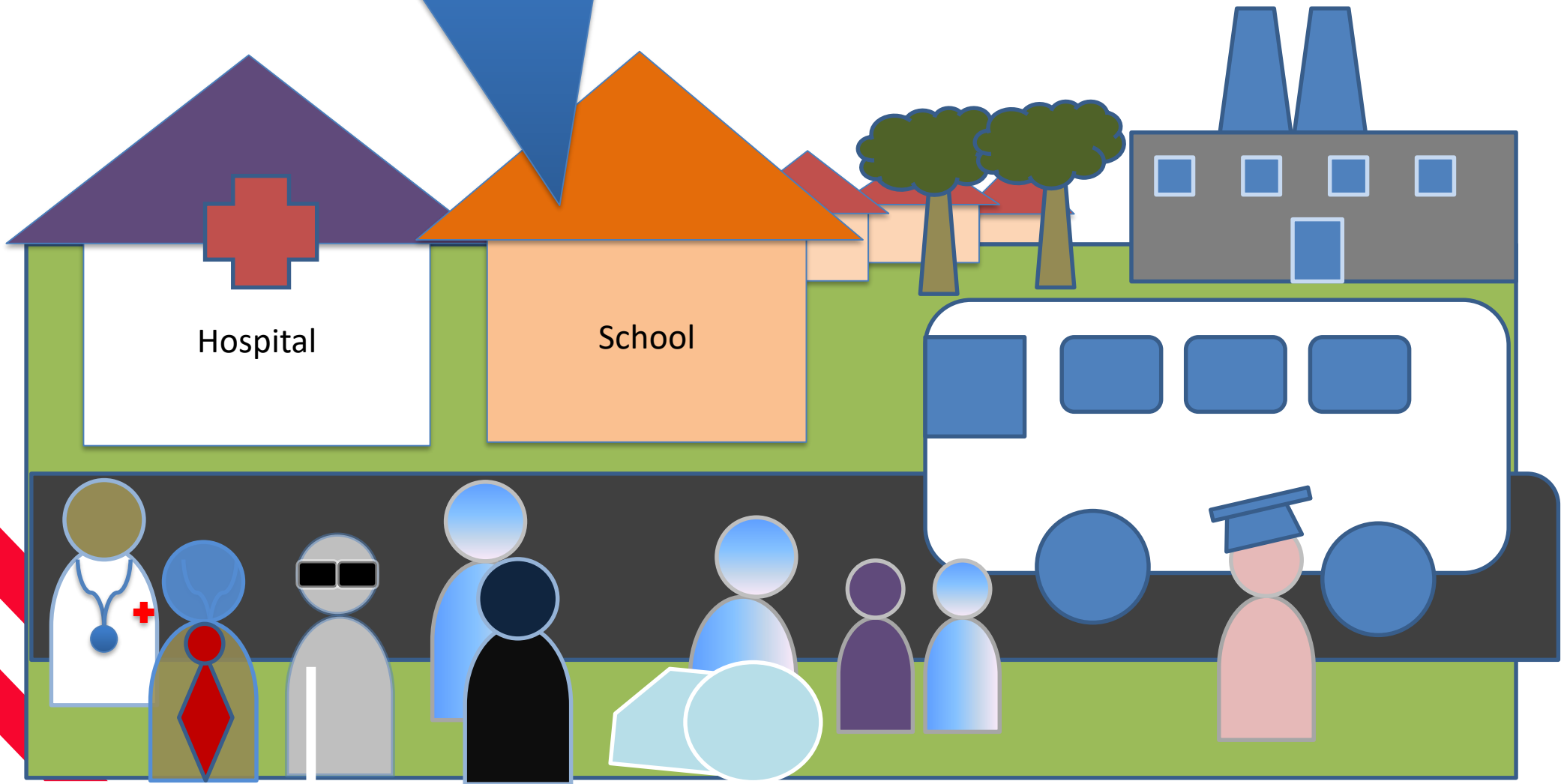


CONSEQUENCES OF CHARITY/MEDICAL APPROACHES

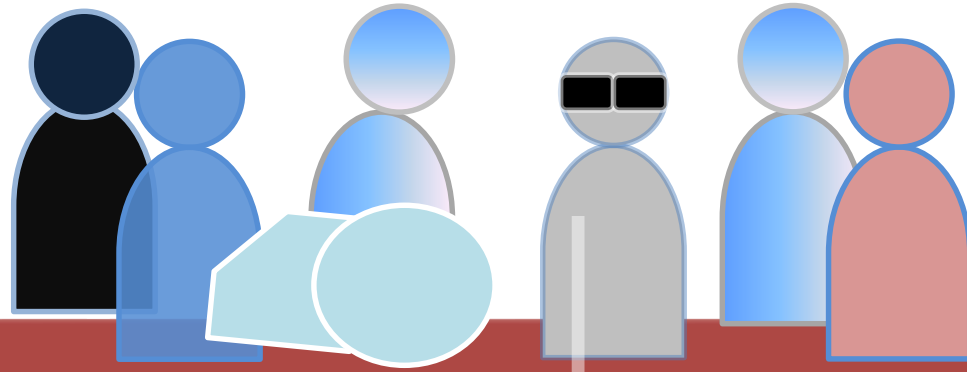


SOCIAL APPROACH

We need to eliminate the barriers to enable the participation of persons with disabilities.



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE PART OF HUMAN DIVERSITY



Being human has a broad spectrum of possibilities

MANY WAYS OF
WALKING

MANY WAYS OF
SEEING

MANY WAYS OF
THINKING

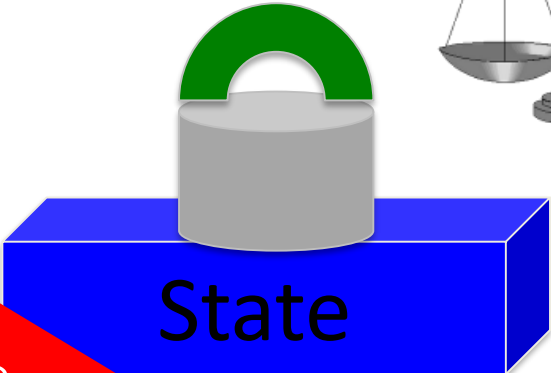
MANY WAYS OF
COMMUNICATING

MANY WAYS OF
INTERACTING

Etc.

HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH

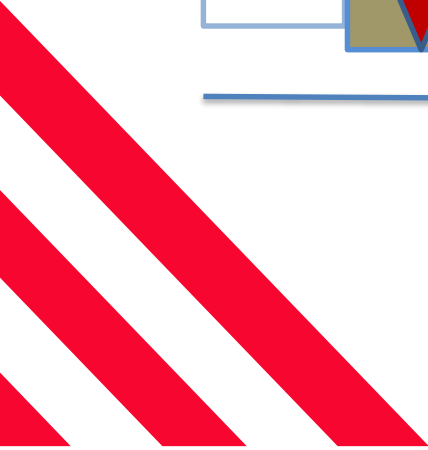
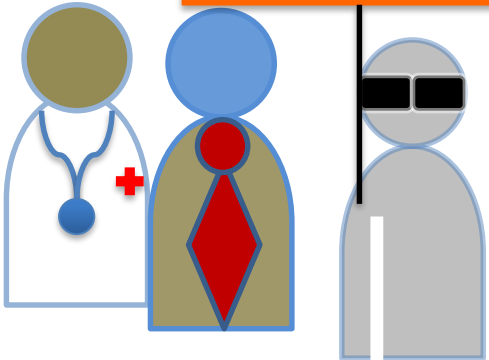
We, persons with and without disabilities, are part of the same society and we have the same rights and obligations




Equal participation

Convention Now!

Non-discrimination



UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

- The Convention marks a '**paradigm shift**' in attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities.
 - Persons with disabilities are **not** viewed as "**objects**" of charity, medical treatment and social protection
 - Rather as "**subjects**" with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society
 - The Convention gives universal recognition to the dignity of persons with disabilities
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UN CRPD's HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO DISABILITY

Article 1 UN CRPD:

'Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others'



WHAT IS THE UN CRPD?

An internationally agreed document that:

- Recognizes universal human rights standards
- Identifies obligations on States to promote and protect human rights
- Sets out national and international monitoring and implementation mechanisms

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WHEN WAS IT RATIFIED? WHO IS A STATE PARTY?

- **Adoption by the United Nations General Assembly - 13 December 2006**
 - **Opened for signature - 30 March 2007**
 - **Entry into force – 3 May 2008**
 - **First Conference of States Parties – 31 October & 3 November 2008**
 - **First session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – 23-27 February 2008**
 - **Number of ratifications – 176 countries worldwide, 28 EU Member States and EU itself**
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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE UN CPRD?

Article 1 CRPD

“To promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of **all** human rights and fundamental freedoms by **all** persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity”




WHOM DOES THE UN CRPD PROTECT?

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others

Consider:

- Diversity of disabilities – physical, intellectual, psychosocial, blind, Deaf, Deafblind, ...
- Women with disabilities
- Children with disabilities
- Older persons with disabilities
- Others?

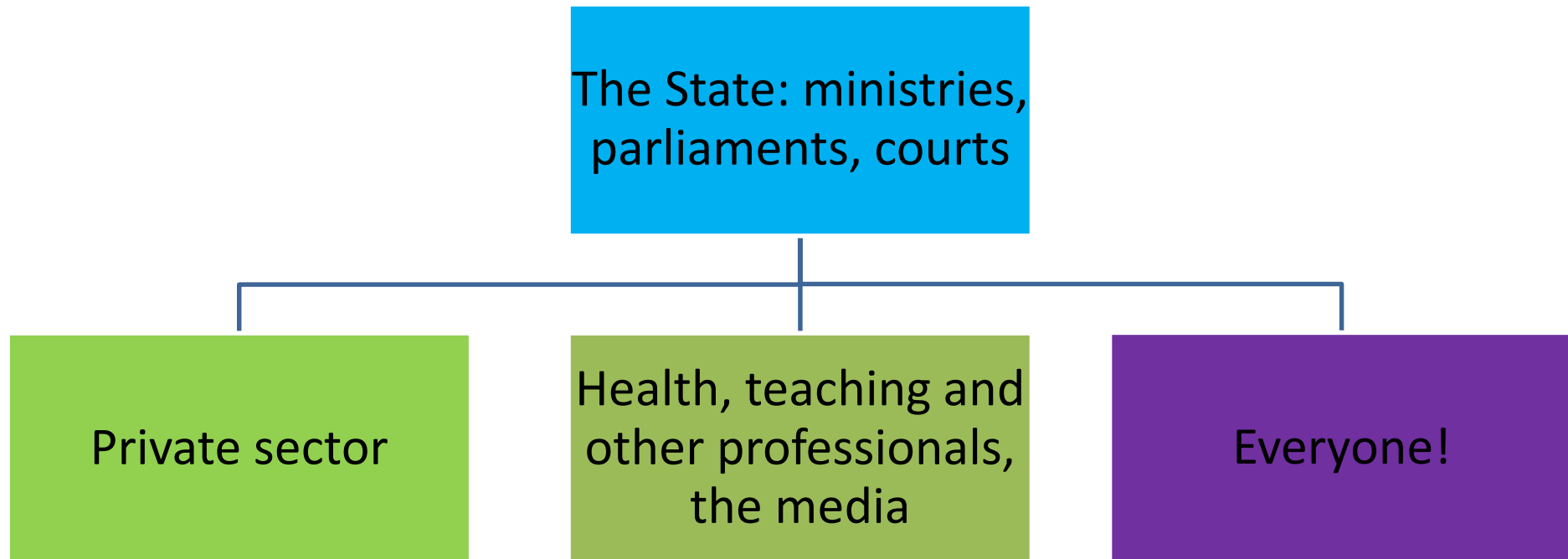
WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT CRPD?

- **‘Nothing about us, without us’** - a forceful call from persons with disabilities around the world to have their human rights respected, protected and fulfilled on an equal basis with others - **participation of persons with disabilities**
 - A policy instrument which is **cross-disability** and **cross-sectoral**: includes all persons with disabilities, and all areas of life
 - **Legally binding**, both for public authorities and private entities
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WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CRPD (Art 3)

- Respect for dignity and individual autonomy
- Non-discrimination
- Participation and inclusion
- Respect for difference and diversity
- Accessibility
- Equality of opportunity
- Equality between men and women
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE ?



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- ✓ Change laws and policies
 - ✓ Provide funding
 - ✓ Make goods and services accessible
 - ✓ Raise awareness on rights
 - ✓ Train professionals and others
 - ✓ Undertake research
 - ✓ Collect data
 - ✓ Monitor
 - ✓ Strengthen ministries, courts, national human rights institutions (creating them if needed)
 - ✓ Build State capacity to implement
 - ✓ Build capacity of persons with disabilities to claim their rights
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HOW IS IT ENFORCED? AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL:

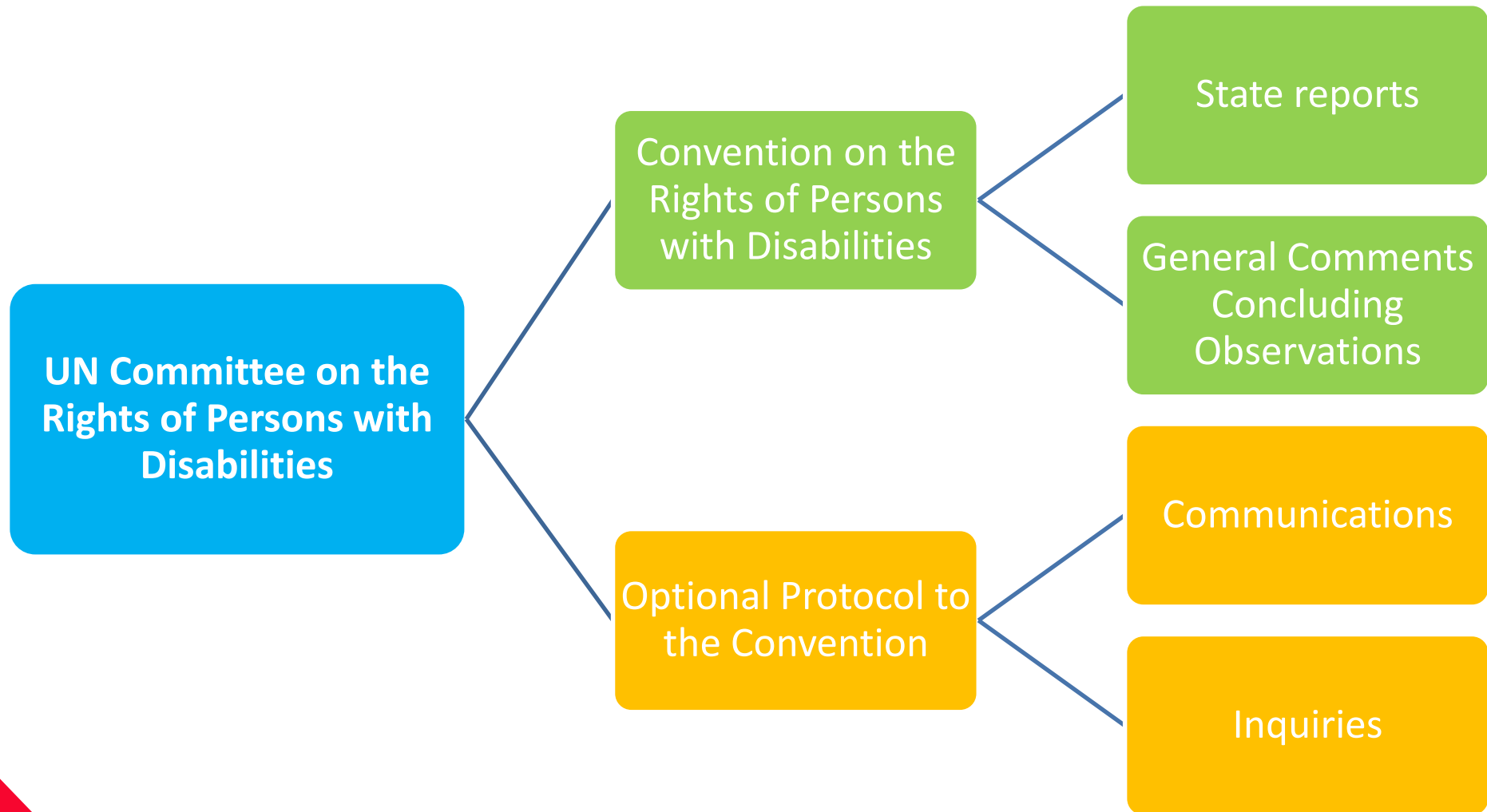
Government: for implementation

- Focal point
- Coordination mechanism (optional)

Independent framework: for monitoring

- National implementation and monitoring framework
 - Civil society
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HOW IS IT ENFORCED? AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:



RESOURCES

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:
<http://ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx>

OHCHR, FAQ on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/FAQ.aspx

CRPD Committee webpage:
<http://ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS ?

Please feel free to contact me at
Ansofie.Leenknecht@edf-feph.org

EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

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An-Sofie Leenknecht, European Disability
Forum