

**THE 2014-2018 NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IS PUBLISHED**

On April the 30th and in accordance with the National Development Plan, the decree approving the National Program for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2014-2018 was published. This Program seeks to develop opportunities, assistance and services that ensure the improvement of their lives.

The publication of this Program is in line with the *General Law for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities* that establishes that the Program should set clear objectives, goals and public policies regarding disability, throughout the three levels of government.

The Program also incorporates the contents of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as other international and national dispositions regarding human rights of persons with disabilities. Additionally, it is designed to eliminate the barriers that exclude persons with disabilities in order to ensure their full participation in the social, economic and political life of the nation.

The Program contains an evaluation on the situation of persons with disabilities in Mexico which assisted in the identification of the programs, policies or institutional actions needed in order to guarantee the full exercise of the rights of these persons.

The main objectives of the Program are:

- To incorporate the rights of persons with disabilities in the programs and actions of the public administration.
- To improve access of persons with disabilities to health services and specialized health attention.
- To promote the design and implementation of programs and actions that improve access to labor of persons with disabilities and coordinate, together with the Ministry of Labor, the actions of the National Program on Labor and Employment for Persons with Disabilities.
- To strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities in inclusive and special education, sports and tourism.

- To strengthen accessibility in public and private spaces, transportation, and information technologies for persons with disabilities.
- To harmonize legislation in order to facilitate Access to justice and political participation of persons with disabilities.

Each of these objectives foresees a series of strategies and action lines that should allow the different governmental offices and entities to implement the Program, in order to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully exercise their rights.

This Program is mandatory for the Ministry of Social Development. All federal government entities are obliged to comply with the Program whenever their activities fall within its sphere of application.

It is important to underline the important role that civil society played throughout the process of elaboration of the Program. It will also be fundamental to count with their support for the effective implementation of the document, in full compliance with the Convention.

The enforcement of the Program will allow the Government to comply with one of its main concerns, which is to strengthen and consolidate an equal and inclusive society, in which persons with disabilities are able to develop fully. These actions will also contribute to the construction of a society where rights are fully respected, transforming a culture of discrimination into a culture of tolerance and diversity.

References:

National Program for Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2014-2018

http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5343100&fecha=30/04/2014