



*Misión Permanente del Paraguay ante la Oficina de Naciones Unidas  
y Organismos Especializados con sede en Ginebra - Suiza*

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**JOINT STATEMENT ON THE VISIBILITY AND ELIMINATION OF  
STIGMATIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS PERSONS ON THE  
AUTISM SPECTRUM**

GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM 3 – JUNE 13, 2017

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Republic of Paraguay has the honour of taking the floor on behalf of XX countries (or listing).

Presently, the Autism Spectrum Disorders are affecting one (1) out of every one hundred and sixty (160) children around the world, with a condition that persists throughout their lives, impairing their individual development and their participation in society<sup>i</sup>.

Persons with autism are often victims of stigmatization and discrimination and can become subjects to unfair limitations in the access to public healthcare, education, participation in public affairs and labour opportunities. The visibility of these mentioned challenges must be addressed by this Council.

Whilst some people are able to live independently, others are affected by severe disabilities. Severe cases of autism can become challenging for adequate healthcare and, in many occasions, carry high costs not only for the individuals, but also for their families and public health providers.

The international community has given a growing importance to mental health issues in the scope of the human right to health, and this Council ought to play a crucial role to its fulfilment, in accordance to the commitments encompassed in the 2030 Agenda and in cooperation with the World Health Organisation and other UN agencies, as well as the important role of civil society.

Finally, Mr. President, allow us to call upon States to work together towards developing public initiatives directed to persons in the Autism Spectrum, with a human rights approach, in order to guarantee accessibility, non-discrimination, inclusion and other actions that will empower these individuals, particularly in cases where the required services and support are not available, limited or underdeveloped.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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<sup>i</sup> (Reference: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/autism-spectrum-disorders/en/>)