

Statement for the 14th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD
Call for States Parties to Promote Digital Accessibility Skills
G3ict – Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies
Axel Leblois, President

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- On behalf of the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies and its stakeholders, including Persons with Disabilities, the IT industry, and more than 3,000 accessibility professionals dedicated to promoting digital accessibility in all sectors,
 - Considering the pervasive exclusion of Persons with Disabilities from essential digital contents and services despite the wide availability of digital accessibility solutions
 - Concerned by the persisting gaps in implementation of digital accessibility policies and programs in application of Article 9 of the CRPD,
 - Aware that such gaps in implementation are caused in large part by a lack of awareness and accessibility skills among professionals responsible for the design, production and maintenance of digital products contents and services,
 - We call all States Parties to the CRPD to:
 1. Promote the inclusion by universities of accessibility as a subject matter in the curricula of computer sciences, digital media and information technology related degrees.
 2. Work with relevant national or regional accreditation bodies to promote the inclusion of accessibility courses as a requirement for accredited computer sciences, digital media and information technology related diplomas.
 3. Require that services contracted, or professionals assigned or recruited by public agencies for the design, production and maintenance of digital contents and services be trained and qualified in accessibility matters.
 4. Consider adopting the professional certification framework of the International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP) for a systematic development of accessibility skills aligned with international good practices including but not limited to core accessibility competencies, accessible web sites development and accessible digital documents.

With our sincere appreciation for your attention.