



PRESENTATION ON ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

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1.0 Introduction

Uganda has extensive policies and laws on disability. Accessibility to the physical environment is one of the key elements addressed in these policies and laws. The National Policy on Disability (2006) has accessibility to the physical environment and information as one of the priority areas of focus.

Introduction *cont'd*

Part IV of The Persons with Disabilities Act (2006) and the Equal Opportunities Commission Act (2008) have provisions on accessibility.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which Uganda ratified in September, 2008 has article 9 covering accessibility.

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2.0 Inadequate accessible physical environment

Despite the affirmative action made by the Government of the Republic of Uganda in terms of improving accessibility for PWDs, very little has been achieved in this regard.

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Inadequate Accessible *cont'd*

For instance, a study conducted by the Ministry of Works and Transport in Kampala City in 2007, it was found out that only 5% of the building were accessible. The Development of the Accessibility Standards was to address the challenge.

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3.0 Development of Standards

The process involved in developing these Standards benefited from extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders. More information was generated from line Ministries and literature in the field of accessibility and disability.

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Development of Standards *cont'd*

Using these publications as a framework and following other consultations and field visits, the MGLSD and UNAPD developed a classification scheme and then established the core content.

The Accessibility Standards set accessibility requirements that apply to the physical environment.

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3.1 Purpose

The goal of the Accessibility Standards is to contribute to improving equal access for persons with disabilities, in order to enable them to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life.

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3.2 Objectives

- To provide a blue print for creating an accessible physical environment.
- To provide a tool for measurement and auditing of accessibility of the environment.

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4.1 People affected by accessibility barriers

- People who use wheelchairs.
- People with limited walking/movement abilities.
- People with visual impairment or low vision.

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People affected ... *Cont'd*

- People with hearing impairment
- People with intellectual disabilities
- People with psychosocial disabilities
- Older persons

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5.0 Guiding Principle: Trip Chain

An important concept in these Standards is the “Trip Chain”. A typical Trip Chain is the sum of all parts of movement from one place to another which must be accessible in order to ensure barrier-free environment. For example, to be able to go from home to a workplace a person must be able to:

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Guiding Principle *cont'd*

- ❖ Exit the home to a sidewalk or pathway.
- ❖ Enter a vehicle.
- ❖ Alight from the vehicle to a sidewalk or pathway near the workplace.
- ❖ Reach the entrance of the building.

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Guiding Principle *cont'd*

- ❖ Maneuver within the building.
- ❖ Enter the office or specific place in the building.
- ❖ Reach the work station.

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Guiding Principle *cont'd*

It takes only one inaccessible link in the Trip Chain to make the journey impossible. Therefore, each link must be considered and improved upon to foster a barrier-free environment.

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6.0 Application of Standards

The Standards are to be applied during the design, construction and alteration of buildings and facilities.

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Application of Standards *cont'd*

(i) **Establishing and deploying accessibility audit teams**

The Standards can be used by auditors on the ground to assess the compatibility of infrastructure with basic accessibility requirements.

The process of auditing involves convening an accessibility audit team,

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Establishing and deploying...*cont'd*

comprising professionals with knowledge on disability and accessibility to the physical environment.

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Establishing and deploying...*cont'd*

A report written by the audit team that conducted the audit and analyses the state of accessibility of the facility in relation to the requirements set in the Standards. The audit team recommends structural adjustments if the building is found not accessibility compliant.

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Establishing and deploying...*cont'd*

The audit team is also responsible for periodic monitoring of the implementation of the proposed adjustments.

A certificate is issued by the auditing team to the management of the building or facility, certifying that their building meets the accessibility requirements.

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7.0 Accessibility for Persons With Different Disabilities

The principal targets for these Standards are people with different types disability. In order to harmonise between the accessibility needs of different groups, there is need to have a proper understanding of these needs which differ from one disability to another.

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Accessibility for Different PWDs *cont'd*

7.1 People who use wheelchairs and people with limited movements

Many accessibility requirements relate to dimensions and other aspects of wheelchairs. In order to achieve a complete turn with the wheelchair, it is necessary to provide an unobstructed circle with a minimum diameter of 1.50m.

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7.2 Blind persons and persons with visual impairments

For blind persons and persons with visual impairments, orientation can be eased by the use of contrasting colors and changes in the texture of the floor material.

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Blind persons and persons with visual impairments *cont'd*

This helps a blind person in identifying doors, stairs, steps, ramps and pedestrian crossings.

The path of travel should be easy to detect by a blind person using a long white cane. A guide strip with a contrasting floor texture running parallel to main pathway should be used for this purpose.

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Blind persons and persons with visual impairments *cont'd*

The use of protruding elements and low overhanging signs should be avoided in pathways.

Blind persons are aided by tactile and auditing information. Therefore, written information should be made available in braille and visual information should be accompanied by audible information.

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7.3 Deaf persons and persons with hearing impairments

Supplementary visual information should be provided for deaf persons and persons with hearing impairments, such as visual information at airports and bus stations and alarms and bells in lifts.

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7.4 People with learning or intellectual disabilities

Some people with learning or intellectual disabilities experience difficulties in understanding or interpreting information like signs, and in distinguishing between different colours or between left or right.

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People with learning or intellectual disabilities *cont'd*

Interpreting information like signs, and in distinguishing between different colours or between left or right.

with clear and unambiguous sign postings; use of signs and notice boards with pictures and

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People with learning or intellectual disabilities *Cont'd*

symbols and separation of a mass of information into number of signs that can be more easily read and understood than in one sign.

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7.5 Other groups

In addition to enabling access to persons with disabilities, the Standards also ensure access to other groups, such as older persons, pregnant women and children

Temporary disabilities, and people carrying heavy or cumbersome luggage. In short, accessibility benefits all persons.

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