# Closing Remarks of the Austrian Independent Monitoring Committee on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (by Tobias Buchner, Daniela Rammel & Bernadette Feuerstein)

Dear Chair, distinguished members of the CRPD Committee, in line with our opening statement we would like to put the focus on measures that need to be taken in three crucial fields: education, women with disabilities and personal assistance and deinstitutionalization.

**In order to move forward in implementing a truly inclusive education system in Austria we recommend the following measures:**

* Sufficient and transparent funding of inclusive education
* A clear shift of funding from special schools towards inclusive education – including transparent measures and a successively reduction of special schools.
* Development and implementation of a nationwide plan and plans in each federal state on the implementation of inclusive education. The monitoring committee thinks that a renewal of the policy of the inclusive model-regions could be an important but only first step of such a process. However, in difference to the former policy, this time model regions should have an adequate budget.
* Furthermore we need incentives for schools that try to become inclusive schools.
* And the rapid expansion of inclusive structures and services in elementary education
* Last but not least we need to establish a system of detailed data collection for all areas of education, including elementary education

I now pass over to my co-chair, Daniela Rammel.

**Women with Disabilities**

Thank you. Ensuring equal access to fairly compensated employment is essential for providing a secure and non-discriminatory life for women with disabilities.

Information on one’s own rights, empowerment and self-determination as well as sex education are key factors to prevent violence. Nationwide available, accessible peer advice for women with disabilities, especially regarding violence, is needed.

We recommend the mandatory implementation of violence protection plans for institutions for persons with disabilities, alongside ensuring comprehensive accessibility of victim and violence protection services.

A nationwide plan regarding the reduction of institutions will reduce the risk of violence for women with disabilities considerably.

Furthermore, systematic data collection are the key to make the lived realities of women with disabilities visible. Thank you.

*Tobias Buchner:* We have another one, sorry

**Just a few words on Personal Assistance and Deinstitutionalization**

Until the pilot project of the Ministry of Social Affairs’ on Personal Assistance is fully implemented, short-term interim solutions must be devised in certain states to ensure self-determined lives with Personal assistance

Following measures are required:

* Immediate measures to combat precarious and health-threatening living conditions;
* A Monitoring Group of experts with disabilities for the pilot project. We are happy that we heard that we get an invitation and that such a group is built.
* Complete implementation of the directive on nationwide unified Personal Assistence and transformation into a permanent service so as to rectify existing deficiencies;
* Adequate funding or reallocation of financial resources is to be seen as the foremost measure for deinstitutionalization. There must be no further investments in existing or new institutions, instead, community-based, individualized support systems must be expanded;
* Staged plans regarding the compulsory dismantling of institutions must be developed in States’ action plans.

Thank you for your attention and for organising and facilitating this State Review – and supporting our participation.