



Rehabilitation International

Assembly

RESOLUTION

Baguio
22-23 January, 1978

The International Symbol of Access

The Governing Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Baguio, the Philippines, January 22-23, 1978:

HAVING in 1969 approved and adopted the concept and the design of the International Symbol of Access as recommended by the International Committee on Technical Aids, Housing and Transportation (ICTA);

HAVING MADE THE SYMBOL FREELY AVAILABLE to all mankind so that its use might contribute to the protection of the human rights of all disabled persons and specifically to an improvement in the availability to disabled persons of the resources and facilities of the communities in which they live;

HAVING IN 1974 established certain principles pertaining to use of the Symbol;

RECOGNIZING the adoption in 1975 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons which sets forth the basic human rights of all disabled people;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the Symbol has been widely accepted for the purposes intended by the Assembly, that it has been officially adopted by many public and private authorities and that its use is increasingly evident throughout the world;

BELIEVING that the proper use of the Symbol has not only assisted millions of disabled persons in locating, identifying and being able to use accessible facilities, but also has created a more general awareness of the problems of accessibility faced by disabled persons and thus helped to stimulate action to eliminate environmental barriers;

CONCERNED, however, that the use of the Symbol for more general purposes or in forms other than that approved by the Governing Assembly distorts the intent of the Governing Assembly and reduces the value of the Symbol as an easily and internationally recognizable identification of facilities accessible to disabled persons;

PROCLAIMS the following policies to govern use of the International Symbol of Access:

1. The Symbol shall always be used in the design and proportions approved by the Governing Assembly, a reproduction of which shall be disseminated with this resolution. The color used for the Symbol shall be white on a dark blue background, to conform with international road sign conventions, unless there are compelling reasons to use other colors. The figure should face to the right, unless there are directional reasons for it to face left.
2. No change in or addition to the Symbol design shall be permitted. The basic Symbol may be used in conjunction with additional signs or texts for directional or identification purposes, as long as they do not distort the integrity of the Symbol.
3. The Symbol shall be displayed only to identify, mark or show the way to buildings and facilities that are accessible to and usable by all persons whose mobility is restricted, including wheelchair users.
4. The standards of accessibility to be applied should be determined by the responsible authorities in each country in accordance with the minimum functional standards adopted by the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Barrier-Free Design in 1974. (see *United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Barrier-Free Design*, following.)
5. Reproduction of the Symbol of Access is prohibited except in published material and other media intended to promote popularization and universal recognition of its purpose. Even then it must be clearly and conspicuously labeled as "Symbol of Access" unless it appears in publications and media whose content is directly relevant to accessibility.
6. Use of the Symbol of Access is forbidden, e.g., as in advertising, as a trademark, on letterhead design, or on articles and products made for and by the handicapped. It may, however, be used to identify or advertise the accessibility of commercial premises.
7. National Member Organizations of Rehabilitation International may obtain national legal protection of the Symbol and control of its use in accordance with the policies stated in this resolution, or they may encourage appropriate authorities to undertake these functions. In countries where there are no National Member Organizations, Rehabilitation International may authorize in writing other agencies to carry out such actions.

REGRETS that the Symbol of Access is sometimes used for other than its intended purpose. This has occurred where no other adequate symbol apparently exists to serve a particular need of disabled people, e.g., to identify disabled drivers, to signal distress, or for other identification purposes. In addition, the Symbol has sometimes been found inadequate to indicate special design features or equipment for people with certain types of disability.

REQUESTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL to constitute a working group to examine the need for additional signs in further detail in collaboration with the Rehabilitation International

Commission on Technical Aids, Housing and Transportation, and with other appropriate international bodies;

URGES the International Organization for Standardization to adopt the Symbol of Access as a standard international symbol, and to establish, in consultation with Rehabilitation International, international standards for barrier-free design and construction;

EMPHASIZES the importance of advising disabled people of the availability of accessible facilities. It likewise affirms the importance of pursuing actively public education campaigns on access and on the correct use of the Symbol to acquaint urban planners, architects, government officials and the general public with the principles set forth in this resolution;

REQUESTS ALL GOVERNMENTS to recognize that all new construction of public buildings, transport and facilities should permit equal access to all members of the community. The basic principles of barrier-free design should be observed as well as in construction of the public areas of all dwellings, in some of the dwellings themselves, and in recreational facilities. Existing buildings and facilities should be adapted whenever possible to conform to these same principles;

APPEALS to all concerned to seek the widest possible use of the Symbol in the manner specified in this resolution, and to avoid any use of the Symbol that is not in accordance with these policies and thus does not respect the intent of the Governing Assembly to assist in protecting the human rights of disabled persons;

REQUESTS the member organizations of Rehabilitation International and all cooperating national and international bodies, including especially organizations of disabled people, to make the contents of this resolution known using all available channels of communication.