

Rights of PWDs as a pathway to Climate Resilience

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Climate Resilient Pathways

Climate-resilient pathways combine adaptation and mitigation for sustainable development. Climate resilience is the ability of a system or community to recover from a shock like a natural disaster. Building resilience requires recognizing potential hazards like extreme weather events and understanding underlying vulnerabilities.



What is the CRPD

The Convention's goals are to advance, safeguard, and ensure that all people with disabilities are able to fully and equally enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to encourage respect for their innate dignity while creating the enabling environment for them to benefit from and contribute to society.

Locating rights

The CRPD does not explicitly mention climate rights but there are provisions of the treaty into which climate, resilience and mitigation can be reasonably interpreted and thus scope exists for adaptation and mitigation measures to be engaged with.



Article 11

States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, **all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities** in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, **humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.**



Ensuring the involvement of PWDs



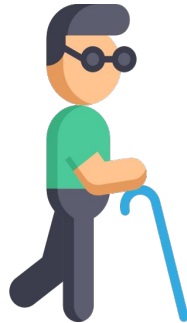
Adopt a cross-sector approach in policy making by appointing and involving disability focal points at the national and local government levels, for disability-inclusive climate action and disaster risk reduction. At the national government level, this could include ministries of social development, health, finance, water and sanitation, infrastructure; organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and other actors relevant to emergency response.

Article 9

“States should enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the **physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications**, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas.”

Built Environment

Construction and rebuilding efforts must consider and incorporate universal design principles that are accessible to persons with disabilities. The establishment and adherence to building codes which mandate access for PWD and universal design is a necessity.



Article 21

States shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to **seek, receive,** and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, including: Providing information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats.

Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, AAC, and all other accessible modes and formats of communication by people with disabilities in official encounters;

Encouraging mass media, especially Internet providers, to make their services accessible to disabled people;

Promoting sign language.

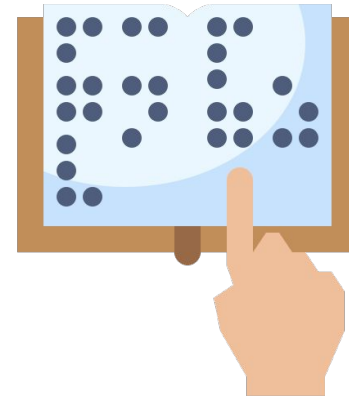
Accessible campaigns

Develop Disability-inclusive climate action and disaster risk reduction campaigns, training, information. Include information and awareness to eliminate discrimination and stereotypes.

Assume all groups receive climate and disaster information equally.

Assume that awareness campaigns can't portray disabled people as helpless.

Disseminate information in accessible formats and languages and inform people with disabilities about emergency resources and services, such as shelter, food, non-food items, assistive devices



Article 31

States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, **to enable them to formulate and implement policies** to give effect to the present Convention.

Collect Data

Institutionalise the collection and use of sex, age and disability disaggregated data , across all sectors, to better inform planning and monitoring concerning the adverse effects of climate change and disasters



The climate crisis has already been solved. We already have the facts and solutions. All we have to do is wake up and change.



— Greta Thunberg

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