Intervention SDG 14

Josef

Thank you Excellency.

I speak today on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities

Weather-related disasters are increasing in number and severity and the number of people affected by them has risen. Disasters and their aftermath have a huge impact on persons with disabilities who are among the most vulnerable in an emergency, sustaining disproportionately higher rates of morbidity and mortality, and at the same time being among those least able to access emergency support. For example, research indicates that the mortality rate among persons with disabilities was twice that of the rest of the population during the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami. Additionally, Articles 11, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) call for the inclusion, protection and safety of persons with disabilities, as well as having access to information and services during in emergency situations.

It is critical now more than ever to ensure that persons with disabilities are actively engaged within the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

Recommendations

* The evidence base and data concerning the vulnerability of persons with disabilities in weather-related emergencies, and key factors, which create resilience, need to be greatly strengthened.
* Evaluations of both emergency and development programmes, in areas affected by a changing climate, need to clearly include disability in their terms of reference.
* Early warning systems need to ensure that warnings reach all members of the community, including persons with disabilities regardless of mobility or communication barriers.