[Science-policy interface and emerging issues](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf)

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Conference Room 4, UNHQ

Berhanu

Thank you Excellency for the floor.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda introduced for the first time a universal and future oriented agenda, integrating the three dimensions of economic, social and environmental development. Equally, the Agenda emphasises the critical role science, technology, and innovation will play in poverty eradication and sustainable development at large.

Access to various services and technologies are often prerequisites for persons with disabilities to work, participate in community life, access health care, and prepare for and survive disasters.

Considering that weather-related disasters are increasing in number and severity and communities and governments are increasingly relying on scientific and technological innovation to help prepare, survive and rebuild after a disaster, it is essential that existing and future policies include persons with disabilities in the development of such innovations.

Additionally, policymakers are increasingly being mandated to collect high‐quality, timely and disaggregated data to make the right decisions for sustainable development, yet without access to digital infrastructure and accessible ICT, persons with disabilities are at risk to be excluded from statistics and surveys used to develop future programs and policies.

As we encounter new issues in which cross-cut economic, social and environmental development, and with the rapid advancement in innovation, technology and science, it is essential that persons with disabilities and the concept of universal design are included from the beginning within policies and funding streams.

We can see the true power of Agenda 2030 when we manage to build a world that is inclusive for all.

I thank you for the floor.