TERMS OF REFERENCE - SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCY

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF IDA’S STRATEGY AND ROAD MAP TOWARDS ADVANCING DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

About IDA

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) was established in 1999 and is a network of eight global—and, six regional organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs), representing the voice of the estimated one billion persons with disabilities worldwide. IDA is a network representing members that are organisations of persons with disabilities. IDA’s unique composition as a network of international DPOs allows it to act as an authoritative and representative voice of persons with disabilities in the United Nations (UN) system.

IDA’s mission is “To advance the human rights of persons with disabilities, as a united voice of organizations of persons with disabilities, utilizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights instruments”. IDA’s longer-term goal is that “the United Nations framework (the General Assembly, Security and Human Rights Councils, treaty bodies and development agencies), bilateral and multilateral development agencies, regional organizations and human rights instruments contribute to create an enabling environment for DPO advocacy and government capacity to implement the UN CRPD at national level”.

More information about IDA: www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org

Background:

Although persons with disabilities constitute 15% of the world’s population, climate action, including at the multilateral level, has neglected to fully reflect their rights. While the preamble to the 2015 Paris Agreement includes persons with disabilities as one of the groups most acutely affected by climate change, they have been largely excluded from decision-making processes and outcomes under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as from States’ climate change policies and plans at the domestic level.
Since 2020, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) has been prioritizing advocacy on climate change, in collaborations with its members most active on this topic. Some major achievements include:

- obtaining observer status with the UNFCCC and supporting other IDA members to do so,
- **status report** analysing *Disability Inclusion in National Climate Commitments and Policies* released by the Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program at McGill University and IDA. The report concludes that even when Governments refer to disability, many do so in a cursory manner, without including meaningful mechanisms to consult people with disabilities or ensure their rights are respected in climate policies,
- establishing and co-chairing a working-group on Disability-Inclusive Climate Action under the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network. The working-group has played a significant role in strengthening connection and exchange among different stakeholders advocating for enhanced inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate action agenda. As one example of substantive work coordinated through the working-group is publishing an **Issue Paper** outlining recommendations for States and other stakeholders to enhance disability-inclusion in climate action in the eve of COP26.

  - Despite lack of dedicated resources, IDA was able to sponsor the participation of representatives in COP26, COP27, and SB56,
  - **Networking with mainstream partners and allies, including UNFCCC constituencies and NGO coalitions, to move the disability rights agenda forward.** Prior and during all conferences, IDA has coordinated with the Human Rights & Climate Change Working Group, an informal network of human rights NGOs engaging in climate change coordinated by the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL). IDA has also closely coordinated with the Indigenous Peoples’ Constituency, formally recognized by UNFCCC, through the intermediary of indigenous persons with disabilities present in COP,
  - **High level engagement with State parties supporting disability inclusive climate action.** IDA has engaged in fruitful conversations with State Parties supporting the disability rights agenda, namely, Finland, the UK, Australia, Canada, and others, by highlighting major issues and proposing language to advance in the negotiations of official documents.

- as one concrete outcome of advocacy, **action plan** for climate empowerment adopted in COP27 included references to people with disabilities. This is the first time after Paris Agreement that persons with disabilities are being mentioned in a mandatory COP decision.
At current stage, IDA is planning to prepare and adopt a comprehensive strategy to ensure that the rights and concerns of persons with disabilities are included in climate action policies and processes at different levels. The strategy will identify the main priorities and will help to establish partnerships to expand the influence of IDA and its members over climate action processes, ultimately achieving adoption of a “disability action plan” in the frame of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**Objective of the Consultancy**

IDA is looking for a consultant to support the development of its strategy and roadmap to enhance inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in climate action policies and processes. The product to be delivered must have the below features:

- Include detailed action plan with clear timeline with short-term, mid-term and long-term measurable indicators ultimately leading to adoption of a “Disability Action Plan” for the UNFCCC implementation,
- Analyse current opportunities and provide recommendations for advocacy to transform and enact references to persons with disabilities in climate action decisions and processes,
- Adopt a multi-disciplinary approach providing strategies and action points on relevant areas such as disaster risk reduction, early-warning systems, response to forced displacement etc.,
- Identify potentially relevant partnerships and strategic alliances, and provide detailed guidance to establish such partnerships, required to support IDA’s influence in global climate action decision-making in particular with UNFCCC constituencies and caucuses,
- Identify and analyse climate action funding opportunities,
- Consultant is responsible to arrange and conduct desk research as well as Key Informant Interviews required to prepare the strategy and roadmap described above. IDA will provide administrative and introduction support as need be.

Tentative Starting day: November 18, 2023
Tentative end day: December 23, 2023

**Qualifications of the consultant**

- Strong knowledge of climate action normative frameworks, policies, and processes,
- Established connection with key climate action stakeholders at global level,
- Strong strategic thinking and strategic planning skills,
- Advanced knowledge of human rights and inclusion of marginalized groups,
- At least five (5) years professional experience working at key climate action positions,
• Knowledge of the rights of persons with disabilities, accessibility, and participation of organizations of persons with disabilities is an asset but not essential,
• Interested to work in a diverse team and fulfil accessibility requirements is essential,
• Excellent writing and presentation skills in English is required. Knowledge of other languages is an asset.

Contracting and Remuneration:

- Payment and financial compensation will be subject to location and experience,
- A consultancy contract (as per Swiss law) will be signed between the selected consultant and IDA,
- Applicants are invited to submit a copy of their passport and commercial/consultant registration/tax numbers. Only applicants with valid commercial and/or consultant registration and/or tax numbers will be considered,
- Payments will be made in several instalments and upon successful completion of the deliverables and submission of invoices.

How to apply

The interested consultant should ask for tender dossier by writing to tenders@ida-secretariat.org with the subject “Consultancy application – IDA Climate Action strategy”. The deadline for receiving complete tender dossier is 12 November 2023.

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.