

What is requested

The International Disability Alliance urges Member States to **include the following points in the Agreed Conclusions** of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women:

- Recognize that women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation;
- Adopt necessary measures to ensure meaningful participation and active involvement of women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating climate, disaster and environmental policies and programs and relevant decision-making processes, with particular attention to women and girls with disabilities from underrepresented and most-marginalized groups;
- Recognize that non-gender-inclusive and non-disability-inclusive climate mitigation and climate adaptation policies and programs may result in women and girls with disabilities experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violations of their rights; and
- Adopt necessary measures to ensure that disaster risk reduction, climate action, and environmental policies and programs are inclusive of and accessible for women and girls with disabilities and do not violate their human rights.

Rationale

Governments should closely consult with and actively involve women and girls with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental policies and programmes, recalling the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Women and girls with disabilities are at greater risk for experiencing harm because of climate change, including heightened risk of violence, and will experience more barriers to support due to their gender and disability. In the aftermath of disasters as result of climate change, they are most likely to be left out, experiencing barriers to accessing assistive devices, health care, education and more.

Women with disabilities are not currently included in the design of policy, implementation or monitoring of national climate adaptation policies and national climate change mitigation policies, despite these higher risks for experiencing harm. Without their participation and inclusion, climate adaptation and climate mitigation policies may pose additional risks to their human rights.

Agreed Conclusions and Resolutions

In recent years, Member States have noted the need to promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities in the context of climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental policies and programmes. Some excerpts from CSW Agreed Conclusions and Resolutions from the GA and ECOSOC and an HRC report follow:

- [E/CN.6/2021/L.3](#) **Sixty-Fifth Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions:** reaffirm the need to “mainstream a gender perspective in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of climate change, environmental, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity policies, plans and programmes, ensuring that they are disability-inclusive” (PP14) and

“Strengthen efforts to empower women and girls with disabilities and enhance their participation and promote leadership in society through taking measures to address all barriers that prevent or restrict the full and equal participation and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life” (OP (oo)).

- [A/RES/75/154](#) **Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities:** “recognizes the disproportionate impact of disasters on women and girls with disabilities” (OP 12).
- [A/RES/73/142](#) **Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities:** encourages Member States and United Nations organizations and mechanisms “to make all efforts to engage with and ensure accessibility for the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities... in development processes and decision-making” (OP 16) and “to strengthen coherence and coordination across the United Nations system in order to promote the availability of internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities” (OP 28).
- [E/RES/2021/17](#) **Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations:** “Urges Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian organizations to involve persons with disabilities in a meaningful manner in all processes, consultations and stages of decision-making in humanitarian preparedness and response, to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination...” (PP49)
- [A/HRC/44/30](#) **Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change:** “Persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, are at heightened risk of violence, including sexual violence, exploitation or abuse, during emergencies, especially in emergency shelters. In some countries, conservative belief systems constrain the movement of women with disabilities, including deciding who may assist in their evacuation and where they can stay during emergencies, placing them at increased risk of harm from the adverse effects of climate change.” (para 12)