

1. The Bali Global Platform for DRR

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Executive Summary

"The Covid-19 pandemic has clearly shown that a paradigm shift must occur in dealing with global-scale humanitarian and environmental crisis. The only successful way to overcome and prevent such crisis is one that does not leave anyone behind. Where persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are recognized as agents of change, they can serve in leading positions to tackle global problems, and their experiences are valued in all sectors of life" - Vladimir Cuk, Executive Director, International Disability Alliance.

The Seventh Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022) marked a great success for the International Disability Alliance and its members and allies towards advancing inclusion of persons with disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction agenda. 1.

1. IDA and partners successfully called on all participants to bring human rights back into the DRR conversation, by following a "twin-track approach" to Disaster Risk Reduction, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). IDA and partners stressed on the need to empower people with disabilities by building capacity and reducing vulnerabilities, on one side; and develop inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction policies to increase awareness of people's requirements and capabilities and improve the preparation and training of disaster practitioners, on the other.
2. Thanks to the concerted effort and constant engagement before and during the Platform, accessibility for persons with disabilities was highly improved, allowing for meaningful participation of disability inclusive DRR activists in all sessions, including plenaries. During this Platform, captioning and international sign interpretation were provided at all official events.
3. Nearly 200 persons with disabilities participated in the seventh platform almost doubling participation compared to the previous platform.
4. Disability was broadly mainstreamed throughout the programme, and not just discussed in dedicated but limited sessions. Persons with disabilities participated in high-level dialogues and thematic sessions on different topics and not solely as disability experts.
5. The platform turned into a great momentum for organizations of persons with disabilities and NGOs working on disability inclusive DRR from different regions to reconvene, strengthen their network, and strategize for the future.

This report provides a brief summary of activities and achievements of participation of OPDs and DI-DRR activists in the seventh Global Platform on DRR 23 to 28 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. IDA participation in the platform was co-funded under the project [Putting Persons with Disabilities at the Center of Disaster Preparedness and Response](#), sponsored by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany (FFO).

Acronyms

CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DI-DRR	Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EDF	European Disability Forum
FFO	German Federal Foreign Office
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GP2022	Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022
IDA	International Disability Alliance
MHEWC-III	Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
PDF	Pacific Disability Forum
RIADIS	Latin American Network of Persons with Disabilities and their Families
SEM	Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism of UNDRR
SFDRR	Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WRC-5	Fifth World Reconstruction Conference

Background

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is the main global forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted in 2015 by the UN General Assembly. Since then, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) has facilitated the [Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities: Thematic Group on DRR](#), an open coordination mechanism established to support persons with disabilities, their representative organizations and other relevant stakeholders to engage in Sendai Platforms and monitoring processes.

To catalyse change and enhance inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian responses, including disaster management, IDA has joined the project "[Putting Persons with Disabilities at the Centre of Humanitarian Preparedness and Response: building and strengthening capacity in inclusive humanitarian action and inclusive disaster preparedness through the active inclusion of persons with disabilities](#)", funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (FFO). This project, started in May 2021, will run until December 2023, and is implemented in partnership with Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), Malteser International (MI), Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM), and Centre for Disability in Development (CDD).

In the framework of this project, from 23 to 28 May 2022, IDA participated in the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022) in Bali, hosted by the Government of Indonesia and co-chaired with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The main theme of the platform was *"From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World"*. Organized in a hybrid format, the Global Platform had over 4000 participants from a total of 185 countries.

Engagement strategy & objectives

Considering that the implementation of the Sendai Framework is half-way through, IDA and allies' participation and engagement in the GP2022 was key to highlight the inadequacy of measures taken to include persons with disabilities in DRR policies and programs ahead of the 2023 inter-governmental midterm review. Moreover, this was the first post-pandemic platform, which has shown a blatant example of how pre-existing patterns of discrimination and exclusion have had a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities, particularly underrepresented groups. Therefore, the GP2022 provided a timely momentum to advocate for inclusion of requirements and views of persons with disabilities in revision of prevention and risk reduction agenda, considering governments' building back better policies after the pandemic.

Accordingly, the disability constituency set the following objectives for its engagement in the GP2022:

- 1) Highlight the inadequate progress in disability inclusion in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR.

- 2) Provide concrete recommendations and suggest a twin-track approach to disability-inclusive DRR, including COVID-19 rebuilding programs and climate action.
- 3) Sensitize key DRR actors and decision-makers including government officials, UN agencies, private sector and the civil society on barriers faced by persons with disabilities in disaster prevention, preparation, response, and recovery as well as their contribution as DRR actors and leaders.
- 4) Connect and strengthen network among disability inclusive DRR activists, including OPDs, CSOs and experts, and enhance coordination and collaboration.

The above-mentioned goals are reflected in the [Statement Adopted by the Thematic Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), published on May 20, which provides concrete recommendations to promote inclusive DRR and climate action strategies.

Key moments and highlights

The GP2022 began with preparatory events on Monday and Tuesday 23-24 May, structured along the second Stakeholder Forum, the third Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC-III), and the fifth World Reconstruction Conference (WRC-5). The main part of GP2022 took place from Wednesday to Friday, 25-27 May.

On Monday 23 May, before the official start of the GP2022, persons with disabilities and disability inclusive DRR activists gathered to discuss their achievements seven years upon the adoption of the Sendai Framework as well as their priorities for the second half of the Sendai implementation. As the representative of disability constituency under UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) IDA coordinated and chaired the event. In total, 71 delegates attending the Platform in person participated in the disability constituency meeting in the SEM framework.

The representatives of the group then reported a summary of these discussions to the UNDRR Stakeholders Engagement Mechanism plenary (see below).

The disability constituency also had a dedicated space throughout the conference for coordination meetings and daily catch up. The constituency reconvened during the last day of the platform to discuss achievements and the way forward.

Representatives of the disability constituency also participated in meetings with UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, and the Head of UNDRR. Many High-Level Dialogues, thematic sessions, and roundtables featured speakers with disabilities, and a number of side events, learning labs, and other activities were organized by DI-DRR advocates.



Figure 2. Advocates with disabilities meeting with Ricardo Mena, Director of UNDRR during GP2022

1.1. The Stakeholder Forum

During the opening ceremony of the **Stakeholder Forum** on May 23, Carlos Kaiser Mansilla, Executive Director ONG Inclusiva, Chile, stressed that, beyond leaving no one behind, “we need everyone on board.” He highlighted interconnections between DRR and climate change, and stressed the need for applied knowledge, statistical data, and indicators, including community knowledge.

During the [*Plenary Session on the Outcomes of the Constituency Sessions*](#) on Monday afternoon, Juan Angel de Gouveia, IDA Chair and President of Latin American Network of NGOs of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS), shared the statement on behalf of disability constituency. He stressed that people with disabilities still face considerable barriers and remain among the most vulnerable, calling for engaging all stakeholders in the mid-term review and future implementation of the Sendai Framework.

On Tuesday May 24, Elham Youssefian, IDA Inclusive Humanitarian Action and DRR advisor, co-moderated a [plenary session](#) with a representative from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), to discuss the outcomes of the parallel sessions and convey the key messages, including the need for stakeholder engagement processes to be more inclusive.

1.2. The Third Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference

During the **Third Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference**, Seta Macanawai from the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) participated as a panelist in a **Thematic Session on the Status, Gaps, and Way Forward** and contributed to define inclusivity with the notions of equality, comprehension by all, people centrality, leaving no one behind, and the

potential of vulnerable groups to fully exercise their rights. He also stressed on the need to consult early and meaningfully at all levels of society, and to make EWS up-to-date, interactive, understandable, and affordable. PDF representative, also participated in a thematic session on [“Early Action and Early Warning”](#).



Figure 3. Sainimili, Tawake - Advisor - Inclusive Development, Pacific Disability Forum, speaking in the thematic session "Early warning and Early Action" in GP 2022

1.3. The Fifth World Reconstruction Conference

Risnawati Utami, Founder/Senior Disability Rights Adviser of OHANA Indonesia and former CRPD Committee member participated as a speaker in a technical session of the **Fifth World Reconstruction Conference**, on [addressing the Recovery Needs of Women and Girls, People with Disabilities and Other Vulnerable Groups](#). Ella Nurlela from the Association of Indonesian Women with Disabilities, participated in the closing ceremony where she illustrated the relationship between disaster and disability.

1.4. The Main Segment

During the **Main Segment** of GP2022, the disability constituency participated in the high-level dialogue [“Learning from COVID-19 – Social and Economic Recovery for All”](#) on Thursday. Pratima Gurung, President, National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal, underscored the disproportionate psychological and psychosocial stress brought upon the most marginalized by the COVID-19 pandemic. She called for a system-wide, inclusive action approach, pointing to the central role of civil society and Indigenous Peoples.

IDA also attended a **side event** on [“Inclusive Local Action towards Effective Disaster Risk Reduction and Leave No One Behind: Dhaka Declaration and Other Inspiring](#)

[initiatives](#)” on May 25, organized by JICA Bangladesh, UNDP, CDD (Centre for Disability in Development). This event highlighted the progress of implementation of inclusive DRR actions with the “Dhaka Declaration on Disability and Disaster Risk Management” and emphasized the innovative approaches implemented by government and non-government stakeholders from different regions. Representatives from the disability constituency took place: Ms. Nogining Armelle Almerique, Chair the Cameroon Associations of Persons with Disabilities (CUAPWD) raised the existing challenges hindering inclusive policies in Cameroon and provided recommendations. Mr Carlos Kaiser, from ONG Inclusiva from Chile, recalled that the Dhaka Declaration is the first declaration that talks about reducing the risks of disaster for people with disabilities and stressed that meaningful participation is “when you are a part of the solution”, “when you have a voice for your own”; meaningful participation means letting people live with dignity ensuring that persons with disabilities are involved within a community.



Figure 4. Ms. Nogining as a speaker in the event

During the first Mid-Term Review (MTR) sessions on **Resourcing Risk-Informed Regenerative and Sustainable Development**, which focused on global financing frameworks and macro-economic governance in relation to addressing risk and building resilience, the IDA, the European Disability Forum (EDF) and the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda called for data on, systematic financing for, and full participation of persons with disabilities. The event was co-chaired by Mami Mizutori, SRSG for DRR and Head of UNDRR, and Suharyanto, Minister of National Disaster Management Authority, Indonesia.

During the MTR plenary “**Strategic Foresight to Build Resilience**” on Friday, which focused on effective multilateral risk governance and risk management, PDF called for initiatives that are fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, reminding participants that exclusion is costly and inclusion the key to resilience.

IDA and allies also took the floor in thematic session as well. In the one on “[Diversity in DRR Leadership](#)” on Wednesday, it was emphasized that diversity in DRR leadership is a key component of risk-informed development and resilience. Co-moderated by Amal Riden, Youth Climate Change Negotiator, and Abel Walekhwa, Deputy Secretary General, Africa Youth Advisory Board on DRR, the session focused on how to achieve transformative impacts in this area. IDA stated that persons with disabilities are isolated from leadership due to attitudinal barriers, which leave them being perceived as dysfunctional and requiring repair to live better lives; IDA then urged change through policies and efforts towards mind-set change.



Figure 5. Elham Youssefian, Inclusive Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, International Disability Alliance speaking in the thematic session “Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction”

During the **Closing Ceremony** of the **Main Segment** on Friday, 27 May, IDA presented stakeholders’ priorities, including: using a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach as a key solution to reduce risk and improve resilience, irrespective of ability, race, sexuality, and refugee status; using and developing local and traditional knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge, for DRR and improved resilience; climate adaptation and DRR acting in a complementary manner; and urgent unified action to address the climate crisis.

1.5. Meeting allies

The GP2022 provided the opportunity to engage in closed meetings with relevant stakeholders, including with **Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed**, and with **UNDRR Director Ricardo Mena**. On that occasion, IDA representative explained IDA's climate action work, and requested support to facilitate inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in climate action approaching COP27.



Figure 6. Dialogue between Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed and Youth and Female DRR Leaders, Bali, Indonesia, 25 May 2022

Results and accomplishments

With respect to previous platforms, evident progress was made towards ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities. Over 200 persons with disability actively engaged in panels and in discussion, doubling the number since the 2019 Global Platform.¹ In GP2022, disability inclusion was more effectively mainstreamed throughout the Platform's agenda including in plenaries and main sessions; a close focus was also given to disability inclusion in a variety of thematic sessions, side events, and learning labs.

The GP2022 expressively deliberated on actions to reduce disaster risk for the most marginalized, including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, and to ensure their full and effective participation in decision making. This is clearly shown in the main take-home messages, summarized in the CO-Chairs' Bali Agenda for Resilience, which include:

¹ [UNDRR, 2022, Co-chair's summary: Bali Agenda for Resilience](#), para. 1

- *"a participatory and human rights-based approach in DRR planning and implementation is crucial as people are affected differently by disasters";*
- *and "recovery and reconstruction are most successful when they are community-driven and support existing local structures and resilience-building mechanisms, while addressing barriers to inclusivity through gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches."*

This is a clear consequence of the sustained engagement and concerted effort of the disability constituency coordinated by IDA through different mechanisms, including the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM).

As a result, the co-chairs' summary also mentions that *"Involving persons with disabilities in design, planning, and leadership ensures the disaster risk reduction measures can protect them and reduce their vulnerabilities. Biases should be recognized, and enablers, opportunities and barriers should be assessed to frame appropriate policies and programmes"*.