

Disability and Climate Action Caucus (DCAC)

Terms Of Reference

September 2021

Article 1. Goal

The goal of the Disability and Climate Action Caucus (from here DCAC) is to unify and represent the voice of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (from here OPDs), as well as civil society organizations committed to inclusion and equal participation of persons with disabilities in UNFCCC processes to develop, streamline and advocate common positions. The caucus aims to facilitate more active engagement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in UNFCCC processes, and to bring together as many NGO observers accredited to the UNFCCC as possible to work democratically towards achieving its goals.

The Caucus draws upon global commitments to disability rights and disability inclusion, as enshrined in the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD) including Article 4.3 on obligation for governments and other duty bearers to ensure consultation with OPDs, Article 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and Article 31 on statistics and data collection. It will also contribute toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and related commitments, and Rio-Conventions. The Caucus works to ensure that human rights and disability inclusion are firmly anchored in all climate actions under the UNFCCC and to challenge the extractive, exploitative and ableist economic model which has resulted in the climate crisis.

Article 2. Principles

DCAC is based on the following principles:

- Democratic and participatory governance; ensuring representation of different groups of persons with disabilities in the governance of the group
- Non-discrimination; committing to respecting diversity within the group membership
- Ensuring inclusion and participation of under-represented groups of persons with disabilities including women and girls, LGBTQI persons, indigenous persons and those representing ethnic and racial minorities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and persons with deaf blindness
- Accessibility
- Transparent procedures and clear, timely and accessible communication to ensure accountability
- Participation processes that allow for effective participation of members from all regions, impairments, and backgrounds
- Mentoring (of younger generations and other newcomers)
- A goal-oriented approach

Article 3. Objectives

The main objectives of DCAC include:

- Ensuring the representation of voices, experiences, needs and potentials of persons with disabilities in the UNFCCC processes and to provide disability perspectives in all related discussions and negotiations
- Developing and advocating for common positions based on climate justice principles and work together towards achieving shared goals
- Foster communication and coordination between OPDs and other civil society organizations interested in and advocating for enhanced disability-inclusive climate action
- Collaborating and advocating to achieve recognition as a formal Constituency and adoption of a comprehensive disability action plan in UNFCCC framework by 2030
- Liaising with other caucuses and constituencies, especially to identify and build upon common ground
- Collaborating on funding opportunities in a transparent manner and according to agreed guidelines, in order to support the collective work and diverse representation of the caucus in the UNFCCC processes and allow for enhanced, capacity building and knowledge sharing

Article 4. Membership

The following organizations may become core member of the DCAC:

- A. OPDs admitted to UNFCCC or in the admission process with record of activities aiming to promote disability-inclusive climate action
- B. OPDs interested in developing their capacity and interest in climate action and applying for UNFCCC admission
- C. Other non-OPD NGOs admitted to UNFCCC or with strong record of activities to promote disability-inclusive climate action

Associate Membership: Other non-governmental organizations, international organizations, businesses, academic institutions, and individual climate action experts that support the objectives and principles of the DCAC may request to join as associate members. Associate members would not be allowed to serve as focal points or vote on matters handled by the DCAC but would collaborate actively with the caucus and its members in accomplishing its goals.

All Members are required to respect the objectives and guiding principles reflected in this TOR to participate in the work and governance of the DCAC.

Article 5. Governance structure

To ensure effective and meaningful participation and true representation of persons with disabilities in UNFCCC processes, the role of focal point/s of DCAC is solely reserved for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). For the initial 2 years, upon establishment of DCAC, the International Disability Alliance and the European Disability Forum will be the focal points of the group as the only global and regional OPDs with provisional admission to UNFCCC.

For the future periods, all OPDs admitted to UNFCCC are eligible to express interest to act as focal points. In case of more than two candidates, the focal points will be elected by core members based on a transparent voting to be regularized by the group. Re-election is possible.

Article 6. Role of co-focal points

- Providing a conduit for the exchange of information between DCAC members and the UNFCCC Secretariat

- Coordination of observer interaction at sessions, including providing names for the speakers list and representation at official functions
- Assisting the UNFCCC Secretariat in realizing representative observer participation at workshops and other limited-access meetings
- Representative functions in UNFCCC capacity
- Information sharing
- Relationship building with the Secretariat and UNFCCC Constituencies
- Focal points may establish working-groups or other roles in the group to help fulfill their responsibilities

Article 7. Communication and decision-making

The DCAC will communicate via a mailing list created and maintained by the Co-Focal Points. The number of members from each organization represented on this list is limited to 2 people (exceptions can be made upon request), however, voting procedures will follow the principle of one vote per organization. When feedback or decisions are required from DCAC members, the relevant information will be shared within a reasonable timeframe and in accessible formats. If no objections are raised by the set date, consensus will be assumed.