

**Disability Inclusive Climate Action: Opportunities and Best Practices, from domestic action to the UNFCCC**

15th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD,

Virtual side event Friday, Jun 17th 8:30- 9:45 am EST.

## **Overview:**

Persons with Disabilities, particularly Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities are negatively and disproportionately affected by climate change, but also by eco-ableist responses to it. After many years of campaigning from disabled climate activists and leaders, the critical intersection between disability rights and climate justice is finally being recognised across civil society, NGOs, and state parties, and disability inclusive climate action is starting to make its way into mainstream climate movements and discourse.

However, without the experience and leadership of disabled activists, community leaders, and our organisations, there is great risk that such progress will move forward without us, further entrenching the eco-ableism and harm that has hampered meaningful and effective participation of disabled communities in climate action for decades.

Persons with Disabilities must be at the table, leading on our rights issues to ensure disability-inclusive climate justice in all campaigns; policies; and other actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation. This leadership must also take into account the ways in which multiply marginalised disabled communities are further harmed by climate change and disability-exclusive climate responses, and recognise the existing leadership of Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities in such spaces.

This dynamic panel discussion will draw on experiences of grassroots climate justice and disability justice movements; Disabled Persons Organisations’ domestic and international climate advocacy; and the civil society movement for disability-inclusive climate action within the UN system. It will highlight key opportunities for more equitable action on climate change, including bridging the UNFCCC & UNCRPD spheres; and developing a Disability Climate Action Plan; as well as best practices to ensure disabled leadership and rights-based campaigning on climate change.

We will also discuss the SustainedAbility Disability and Climate Network-led campaign for a Disability Constituency within the UNFCCC as both a case study and a live opportunity for attendees who wish to advance their and their organisations’ climate action.

## The meaningful participation of Persons with Disabilities and our organisations in climate action is critical to upholding our rights under the UNCRPD, and we welcome you to join us. **Background: UNFCCC Disability Constituency Campaign**

Since COP23, a critical part of progress on disability-inclusive climate action within the UNFCCC has been the campaign for, and self-organisation of a Disability Constituency. We will share UNFCCC COP26 outcomes on disability engagement and representation, including engagement with the COP26 Presidency; the inclusion of the Disability Caucus in the UNFCCC Secretariat Daily Programme; and the first-ever Disability Caucus High-Level Statement.  
  
**Link to the Disability Caucus Hight Level Statement:** <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Disability_Caucus_cop26cmp16cma3_HLS.pdf>

## **Outcomes**

1: Understand the impacts of disabled exclusion in climate change policies and climate action

2: Learn some best practices for meaningful inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in climate change campaigns; multilateral negotiations; policies; and other actions

3: Understand the experiences of Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities in climate issues, and the need for intersectionality in disability-inclusive climate action

4: Share disability rights outcomes from the UNFCCC, including outcomes of the COP26 conference, and upcoming opportunities for engagement

## **Speakers**

**Moderator:**  
Kera Sherwood-O'Regan - The SustainedAbility Disability and Climate Network

**Panellists:**

Damian Griffis - First Peoples Disability Network Australia  
Paul Brown - Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand

Pratima Gurung - National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal

Jason Boberg - The SustainedAbility Disability and Climate Network

## **Sponsorship**

This Side Event has been organised by organisational members of The SustainedAbility Disability and Climate Network. The main sponsor of this event is the Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand, co-sponsored by First Peoples Disability Network Australia, and the National Indigenous Disabled Women’s Association of Nepal.

## **Event Details**

**Friday, June 17th, from 8:30- 9:45 am EST**

This is a virtual side event, to be held over Zoom.   
  
**Registration link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81866079630?pwd=MXhMTVJiNVMvcnl1KzQzVjFiMXBJUT09>

**Accessibility:** Sign Language and captioning will be provided.