



# Institutionalising Disability in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

## Key Messages



Inclusion of persons with disabilities should be institutionalised within NDCs by defining specific disability inclusion targets, indicators and dedicated budget lines



Closing the disability inclusion gap mandates disability-disaggregated data and meaningful participation of OPDs within NDCs

## Current Gaps

NDC reports highlight the financial needs for climate action but does not isolate or quantify disability-targeted funding. Without specific considerations, persons with disabilities are unlikely to benefit from the global climate finance mobilisation

Beyond mentioning disability, NDCs lack clear technical specifications for realizing disability-inclusion commitments. This omission obscures the compounded impacts of climate change on these intersecting identities and denies opportunities for tailored policy solutions

Lack of concrete data on how climate impacts affect persons with disabilities. Without disaggregated data, climate impacts on OPDs are unmeasured, unprioritized, and effectively invisible in mitigation processes

There is no robust framework for disability-responsive implementation. Disability-specific indicators are absent in NDC monitoring and reporting systems, hence progress is untracked

## Executive Summary

NDCs are the primary instrument for translating global climate goals into national action under the Paris Agreement. Under Article 4 of the Agreement, Parties have a dual mandate to pursue climate ambition while respecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. This strongly qualifies the requirement to recognise disability inclusion in policy and financial mechanisms.

The 2025 UNFCCC NDC Synthesis Report reveals a systemic absence of disability as a standalone analytical category. This invisibility matters. Climate impacts, adaptation measures, mitigation pathways, and the distribution of finance all produce differentiated outcomes. If NDCs fail to disaggregate and to mainstream disability, national planning risks perpetuating exclusion, and misses the opportunity to harness the capacities and knowledge of persons with disabilities in resilient, inclusive solutions.



# Policy Recommendations

P1

## Establish a disability-specific mainstreaming framework in NDCs

Adopt a disability-specific mainstreaming framework within the NDC process to address the structural omission of disability inclusion. This framework would outline the operational integration of disability inclusion across all sectors of climate action, ensuring that disability considerations are embedded in every aspect of mitigation, adaptation, and just transition strategies. The framework should include clear institutional responsibilities for disability inclusion across the NDC lifecycle and guidelines for disability-responsive policies, with benchmarks for Parties to report on specific disability-inclusive measures.

P2

## Strengthen governance and participation mechanisms for OPDs

NDC processes must guarantee inclusive participation of OPDs in design, implementation, and monitoring by establishing participation guidelines that guarantee accessibility for OPDs. Mandate formal participation mechanisms for OPDs in NDC design, decision-making processes, and oversight bodies. Fund OPDs to facilitate their active engagement in climate policymaking.

P3

## Develop and implement disability-inclusive adaptation and mitigation standards

Establish mandatory disability-inclusive standards across key sectors identified in NDCs, including disaster risk reduction, urban infrastructure, and climate-resilient healthcare systems. Require accessible design of climate resilient infrastructure with specifications for disability inclusion. Develop sector-specific disability inclusion checklists for use in NDC implementation, ensuring meaningful participation across NDC cycles.

P4

## Expand disability-disaggregated data and monitoring systems

Disability-disaggregated data must be systematically integrated into NDC monitoring systems, National Adaptation Plans, and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies. Mandate disaggregation of climate data in national reporting systems to ensure that the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities are tracked and measured. Establish time-bound targets for Parties to include disability disaggregation in their monitoring frameworks, aligned with existing climate data frameworks such as the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

P5

## Institutionalise disability-responsive budgeting and financial instruments

Require a climate finance architecture for NDC implementation to incorporate disability-responsive budgeting to meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities, such as:

- disability-inclusive social protection programs targeting those affected by climate hazards
- assistive technology funding to enhance access to climate-resilient services and employment opportunities
- disability-targeted financial instruments, such as loans or grants to fund accessible climate infrastructure
- mandatory reporting requirements on disability-specific financial allocations, ensuring transparency and accountability



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