

# 2021 Economic and Social Committee

## Humanitarian Affairs Segment

### Our voices count: young people with disabilities and climate action

Organized by UNICEF and the International Disability Alliance

Thursday 24 June 8:30 to 10:00am CET, virtual (link to join provided below)

#### **Background and objectives of event**

Persons with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by climate change and these impacts are multiplied in humanitarian contexts. However, while the preamble to the 2015 *Paris Agreement* includes persons with disabilities as one of the groups most acutely affected by climate change, they have nevertheless been largely excluded from decision-making processes and outcomes under the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), as well as from States' climate change policies and plans at the domestic level.

Persons with disabilities, as local actors, have an important role in climate action. Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations have valuable knowledge on how climate change impacts the most marginalized and effective measures to mitigate the impacts at a local level. Further, youth with disabilities are a powerful voice for climate action but are often excluded from opportunities to participate in climate movements.

This side event, organized by UNICEF and the International Disability Alliance, will provide a forum for exchange of learning and experience on how persons with disabilities and their representative organizations can be engaged in climate action at a local level. In particular, this event will engage young persons with disabilities to identify effective strategies to strengthen their engagement. This discussion will build on the substantial gains that have been made in recent years in terms of strengthening participation by persons with disabilities as actors in humanitarian response (including in public health emergencies), and identify learning from this to be applied to climate action.

#### **Discussion points or guiding questions**

- How are young people with disabilities engaging in climate action and how can we continue to strengthen their engagement?
- What are the unique challenges and opportunities in humanitarian contexts to engaging young people with disabilities in climate action?
- What lessons can be learned from engagement of young people with disabilities in humanitarian response, to inform inclusive climate action in humanitarian contexts?

#### **Key concrete action points and recommendations/take away messages**

Concrete actions and entry points to be identified through sharing of experiences of young people with disabilities themselves in the event.

## **Format of the side event**

8.30- Opening by St Lucia

8.35- Screening of 'Disability Inclusive Climate Justice' by the European Disability Forum

8.40- Presentation by a climate activist with a disability- what is the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities, in particular the impact on youth and barriers to their participation in climate action?

8.50- Presentation by a young person with a disability who has engaged in climate action- what was their role, what helped to facilitate their engagement?

9.00- Ruci Senikula, Youth with Disabilities Engagement Program Officer, Pacific Disability Forum- how are youth with disabilities living in disaster-prone contexts impacted by climate change and what unique challenges do they face to participating in climate action?

9.10- Sharing of learning from engaging youth with disabilities in humanitarian action- what is their role, what works in terms of supporting engagement

9.15- Interventions from the floor

9.45- Moderator identifies 3-5 concrete actions, to be circulated widely after the event

9.55- Closing remarks by UNICEF and IDA

## **Chair and moderator**

Yolanda Muñoz, PhD, Co-Investigator, Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme (DICARP), McGill University <https://www.disabilityinclusiveclimate.org/>

## **Panel composition**

See above

## **Background Material (feel free to share links to relevant documents)**

- OHCHR (2000) The impact of climate change on the rights of persons with disabilities- [OHCHR | The impact of climate change on the rights of persons with disabilities](#)
- International Disability Alliance disability inclusive climate action- [Disability Inclusive Climate Action | International Disability Alliance](#)
- McGill University Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme- [About — DICARP \(disabilityinclusiveclimate.org\)](#)

### **Connection details to join the event**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://unicef.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUofu-grzkpG9FtzIKp5h3wZo3X9K6ZPnk0>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### **Contact(s)**

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