**Oral Presentation for Online Meeting on Article 11 of CRPD**

7 March 2023, Geneva

While recognizing the fact that the present climate crisis is ripping apart economies of the world and accelerating social inequalities, accordingly the Government of India as well as governments across the world, Disabled Peoples' Organizations, and civil society organizations as well as industry and business establishments are coming forward to work with governments and all other stakeholders to arrive at a plausible climate resilient community action in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other human rights law obligations of the UN.

In this context, it is recognized that there is a need to expand the scope of Article 11 of the CRPD to amend and include climate crisis, which is the cause and impacting all life on our blue planet adversely, especially the historically vulnerable ecosystems and communities including persons with disabilities. In that respect, we as persons with disabilities need to respond to this opportunity to give our thoughts and recommendations to address the issues of climate crisis driven disasters, to contribute to our national policies, laws, and legal institutions and contribute to the global community climate action strategies with intersectional/inter-generational approaches based on the principle of ‘Leave No One Behind’ and ‘Nothing About Us Without Us.’ The aim is to draw the attention of the national, regional, and international organizations to create such pathways for disability inclusive community climate action as are imperative and necessary.

The [UNCRPD](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html) was adopted in 2006. As the times have changed, the CRPD needs to evolve with it. It is wonderful but not enough to have committee reports and interpretations of the article for they are not sufficiently known nor distributed worldwide. Thus, what is needed is to amend Article 11 as there is no mention of climate change induced disasters that have cascading and compounding impact on persons with disabilities. There is need to monitor and report the outcomes and mitigations resulting from the application and of this article. Disaggregated data collection pertaining to disability is another challenge as there is huge pressure to move to the next disaster hit.

Article 11 states,

Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and *the occurrence of natural disaster*

The words in Italics are to be changed to the following -

and *the occurrence of* *human and naturally caused disasters including climate change*

Recommendations were drawn out of an online Consultation held on 10 February 2023 with persons with disabilities, representatives of DPOs, OPDs, environmental activists and other CSOs. Our specific Recommendations are:

1. Expand programming to look beyond just pre- and post-disasters, including issues like livelihood, Regenerative Agriculture and Agro-Forestry, nutrient food security, renewable energy, transport, recycling, infrastructure.
2. Ensure special attention to women with disabilities as they are further marginalized by both climate change and disability
3. Develop and adopt better implementation measures of CRPD and other relevant international conventions and domestic legislations
4. Prioritize individual and community-based approach to disability-inclusive climate justice
5. Wider interpretation of Article 11 as part of amendment
6. Address mental health and economic, social, cultural and other impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities, with specific focus on their De-institutionalization, prior to, during and after disasters
7. Ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in and decentralization of the climate action planning and implementation
8. Develop improved systems to track how climate change impacts lives of persons with disabilities
9. Address the issue of climate change-induced migration and its impact on marginalized communities like urban poor
10. Develop a model of disability-inclusive Climate Resilience based on ‘Build Forward Better’ to realize the principle of ‘Leave No One Behind’
11. Collect intersectional and inter-generational disaggregated data on various aspects related between climate change and disability, with respect to all human rights legislation
12. Take cognizance of climate change-induced loss and damage concerns of the persons with disabilities while developing climate change adoption and mitigation interventions
13. Undertake risk profiling of vulnerable communities and ecosystems
14. Re-visit and revise the existing Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) legislations, policies and their implementation with community-based Climate Action strategies
15. Address the challenge of climate change-induced poor working conditions resulting in disability
16. Monitor and report the outcomes and mitigations resulting from the application and of this Article, subsequent to the Amendment suggested above