# The Dhaka Declaration on

**Disability and Disaster Risk Management, 14 December – 2015**
Adopted at the
**Dhaka Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management**
**Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 12 -14, 2015**

## Preamble

**We are concerned** that in the last decade the number of disasters (natural and human induced) has risen which has resulted in an increase in loss of lives, property and livelihoods globally. Despite a lack of global data, specific reports from 2004-2014 showed that the mortality rate of persons with disabilities was 2-4 times greater than for other members of communities[1].

Evidence indicates that the exposure of persons, property and livelihoods in all countries to disasters has increased more rapidly than our ability to reduce risks and vulnerabilities. Processes of non-risk development are also generating new risks and a steady rise in disaster losses, with a significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact in the short, medium and long term, especially at the local and community levels[2].

Existing systems at national, regional and global levels are failing to ensure the participation, inclusion and mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in decision making processes within disaster risk management. More than 85% of persons with disabilities from 137 countries, who participated in the first ever global survey 'Living with Disability and Disasters' conducted by UNISDR[3], stated that they had not participated in community based disaster risk management and reduction processes. More than half of the survey respondents said they are keen to participate in such processes.

Climate Change is predicted to disproportionately affect the world's poor. 20% of the poorest people worldwide are persons with disabilities. It is estimated that 82% of persons with disabilities in developing countries live below the poverty line[4].

**We recognize that** disability is part of human diversity and persons with disabilities will have varying requirements. This diversity and varied requirements need to be considered in all aspects of Disaster Risk Management (DRM).

**We Acknowledge:**

- The active contribution of persons with disabilities and their organisations, along with all other stakeholders, who advocated for and supported the development of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

- The importance of linking disability inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DRM) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the understanding that inclusion builds the resilience of the whole of society, safeguards development gains and minimises disaster losses.

---

[1]Report on 2011 disaster of Japan
[2]Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)
[3]Conducted in 2013, and published in 2014
[4]Building Community Resilience: The rights of Groups in Focus, 15 March 2015, www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ID**Persons**

**We Recall:**

1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) principles and Articles that call for inherent dignity, equal and inalienable rights of all human beings, non-discrimination, protection, accessibility, full and effective participation in decision making processes, equalization of opportunities, individual autonomy and independence of persons with disabilities.

2. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction - 2015-2030 as the first major agreement around post-2015 development agenda, with four priorities, seven targets, and 13 guiding principles for action including a people centred approach and recognition of disability inclusion.

3. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that calls for 'End Poverty in all of its forms everywhere', 'By 2030, to build resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters' and 'Take urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts'.

## The Declaration

We, the participants of the Dhaka Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management, representing 18 countries, including members from Governments, UNISDR, regional and international non-government organizations working on disability and disaster risk management, professionals and academicians, groups and organizations of persons with disabilities, bi-lateral and multi-lateral development agencies and other development sector representatives meeting here in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 12-14 December 2015 have agreed to the following statements:

*Appreciating* the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and the National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) for organizing the Dhaka Conference in collaboration with the UNISDR and supported by many other agencies;

*Recalling* the presentations and sessions of the Dhaka Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management which explored the main theme - Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Management in post-2015 development agenda and the protection and inclusion of those most at-risk in disaster at local, national, regional and global levels;

*Acknowledging* that inclusive and effective disaster risk management is based upon collaborative approaches, shared values and a common concern for those disproportionately affected and to live in hazard and risk-prone situations;

*Noting* that individuals and communities are differently impacted by disasters due to gender, disability, age, culture, socio-economic factors, geographical locations, levels of governance, a lack of awareness and lack of communication within society (from youth to older persons, women to men, children to adult and vice versa);

*Recognising* that inclusive disaster risk management policies and relevant and appropriate laws and regulations are essential to create an enabling environment for reducing existing disaster risks, preventing new risks, building resilient communities, and facilitating effective local, national, regional and international cooperation to increase already incremental investment in inclusive disaster risk management;

*Reaffirming* the commitments made by the Governments and States signatories to disaster risk management frameworks including Sendai Framework at the international, regional, national and local levels and to the UNCRPD to address vulnerabilities, risk, discrimination, deprivation, inequality, exclusion and marginalization;

**Reemphasising all issues raised above, we**
**CALL ON ALL GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO:**

*Ensure people centered approach*
1. Implement the Principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), other human rights treaties to ensure the participation, inclusion and leadership of persons with disabilities within all disaster risk management programmes.

***Specific Actions: All level of Disaster Risk Management Committees should have gender sensitive representation of persons with disabilities in at least two countries per region by end of 2017.***

2. Meaningfully engage persons with disabilities and Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) within the implementation of the Sendai Framework at local, national, regional and global levels.

*Specific Action: At least two countries per region will develop inclusive Community Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction Action Plan framework and guidelines for disaster risk management programmes and identify, reduce and remove barriers that limit leadership and the participation of persons with disabilities in decision making by end of 2017.*

*Strengthen Governance, partnership and cooperation*
3. Enhance collaboration among Governments (local and national), development agencies, UN, NGOs, CBOs, persons with disabilities, DPOs, professionals, active citizens, academic institutions, private sector and other key stakeholders to work together and ensure effective implementation of inclusion within the Sendai Framework at all levels to reduce vulnerabilities and prevent and reduce consequences of disasters.

*Specific Action: At least five countries per region will establish and/or support local and national multi-stakeholders' platforms to implement the Sendai Framework through active citizen engagement including persons with disabilities, DPOs, CBOs, NGOs, UN, academic institutions, private sector and development agencies by end of 2017.*

*Integrate gender, age and disability disaggregated data*
4. Ensure that governments and other stakeholders set up an effective mechanism and guidelines to collect sex, age and disability disaggregated data at pre- and post- disaster situations.

*Specific Action: At least two countries per region will set up an effective mechanism and guidelines to compile sex, age and disability disaggregated data at pre- and post- disaster situations aiming to inform disaster risk management policy makers and organizations at all levels by end of 2017.*

*Promote Empowerment and Protection*
5. Support inclusive community-based disaster risk management initiatives, risk analyses and data banks which will facilitate and inform local, national and regional level early warning systems and disaster preparedness plans that are accessible by all.

*Specific Action: At least two countries per region develop people centred multi-hazard early warning system to support local and national stakeholders by end of 2017.*

*Removal of barriers to reduce the impact of disasters on persons with disabilities*
6. Strengthen the self-reliance of persons with disabilities at local and national levels through removing all kinds of barriers (cultural, social, economic, procedural, physical, communication and attitudinal) guided by 'build better'[5] approach and resilient universal design and s*upport to replicate Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) based tools, equipment, devices and intermediate technology for inclusive humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction*.

*Specific Actions:*
- *At least two countries per region will take action to enforce accessible and resilient infrastructure models including schools, hospitals and shelters following the principles of universal design, and roll out at the local level and share learning in regional and global consultations by end of 2017.*
- *At least two countries per region will ensure support to replicate accessible and affordable technology, device and equipments for inclusive humanitarian response by end of 2017.*

---

[5]This term means resilient infrastructure and indicates action to reduce risks, and it will be far less affected during disasters.

*Act at Local to National to Global*

7. Take necessary actions to refer, present and endorse the Dhaka Declaration, December 2015 and consider it in the development of national, regional and global road maps, action plans, indicators and terminologies for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

***Specific Action: Refer and Endorse the Dhaka Declaration in the World Humanitarian Summit 2016, Regional DRR platforms in 2016 and 2017, First Global Platform of the Sendai Framework 2017 and all other national, regional and global initiatives.***

8. Declare a focal point for inclusive DRR at country level, and governments, national and regional DPOs, organizations working on disability and DRR and UNISDR take collective action to organize future conferences on Disability and Disaster Risk Management, with a priority intention to review progress achieved against this declaration and progress towards inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework.

***Specific Action: At least five countries per region will declare focal points to represent in the advocacy group on Inclusive DRM to be formed by UNISDR, and National and Regional DPOs, organizations working on disability and DRM jointly with national governments will come forward to organise a second conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management to review the progress against specific actions by end of 2017.***

## References:

1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030
2. Survey on 'Living with Disability and Disasters' conducted by UNISDR, 2013 (published in 2014)
3. Disaster Reports from 2004-2014
4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) 2006
5. Building Community Resilience: The rights of Groups in Focus, 15 March 2015, www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IDPersons
6. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2015-2030
7. Japan disaster report 2011