# Climate Change:Human rights and empowerment of persons with print disabilities

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## Overview

Climate change: The science

Persons with disabilities and impact of climate change

ICEVI perspectives

Round Table perspectives

Closing perspectives

## Climate change: The science

### Global

Strong correlation between rising global temperatures and increased Carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere

2 major sources of CO2 emissions: Deforestation & burning of fossil fuels and industry processes

Source: Australia Bureau of Meteorology, 2021; Climate Change in Australia, 2021

### Southern Hemisphere

Warming of the oceans has largest impact on our climate

● Increasing ocean acidification

● Warming oceans shift pressure systems south

● Rising sea levels due to melting polar ice

Instability in atmosphere and cloud formation causing changing weather patterns

● Example: More intense and destructive hurricanes/tropical cyclones in recent decades

Source: Australia Bureau of Meteorology, 2021; Climate Change in Australia, 2021

### Australia

Increasing frequency of extreme heat events

● Southern Australia:

● Increasing extreme fire weather & length of fire season

● Decreasing rainfall and streamflow

### Northern Australia:

● Increasing rainfall and streamflow

Source: Australia Bureau of Meteorology, 2021; Climate Change in Australia, 2021

## Persons with Disabilities

Human rights and empowerment perspectives

### Impacts of climate change

Persons with disabilities in low and middle income countries and small island developing states are particularly vulnerable during natural disasters

Impacts access to food and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, health care services and medicines, education and training, adequate housing and access to decent work

Sustain disproportionately higher rates of disease and mortality

Source: UN Environment Programme, 2019; UN OHCR, 2020

### Disaster vulnerability:Four structural factors

**1.** Scarcity of disability-related information and knowledge

**2.** Limited participation in disaster management and relief aid processes

**3.** Inaccessible physical environments (e.g. shelters), and inaccessible preparedness measures and relief aid

**4.** Stigma, discrimination and denial of basic rights and services

Source: Smith, Jolley & Schmidt (Sightsavers), 2012

## International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

### ICEVI

Mission: To promote access to inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all people with visual impairment

Strategic objectives: Collaborative partnerships, information sharing, and advocacy at global, regional and local levels

Strategic focus: Lower and middle income countries, including small island developing states

### Slide 12: Three education system contributions

**1.** Education builds awareness, resilience and adaptive capacity

**2.** Education is protective, life-saving and life-sustaining during disasters and displacement

**3.** Education empowers youth to create a more sustainable future

Source: Rogers & Kiefer, 2019; Send My Friend to School, 2020

### ICEVI climate change priorities (2021–2024)

Collaboration, partnerships, membership

IDA, IDDC, CBM, Sightsavers, GLAD, PDF, GCE, INEE, UN agencies

Information gathering and sharing

Advocacy / influencing and awareness raising

Documenting of human experiences

Youth engagement and empowerment

## Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities

### Mission

To facilitate and influence the production and use of quality alternative formats for people with print disabilities by optimising the evolving Round Table body of knowledge.

Source: Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities (2019)

### Objectives

Fostering spirit of cooperation and resource sharing among members

Setting accessible format standards and guidelines

Consultation and / or action on matters of common concern

Representing member views to appropriate bodies

Fostering consumer consultation

Source: Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities (2019)

### Round Table and Climate Change initiatives?

Some possibilities …

Represent members in promotion of disability-inclusive, accessible publications and alerts by government authorities and organisations supporting persons with print disabilities

Raise awareness of importance of accessible information

Examples:

● Provide input into Australian Government Climate change Action Strategy 2020-2025

● Promote accessible alerts and updates from Australian Bureau of Meteorology and state / territory emergency services

### Round Table and Climate Change initiatives?

**Some possibilities (2) …**

Collaborate with climate change researchers in production of accessible information

**Examples:**

● Sonifying climate change initiatives, such as Monash University Climate Change Communication Research Hub (MCCCRH)

● Melbourne University, Leaders for Global Sustainability

### Round Table and Climate Change initiatives?

**Some possibilities (3) …**

Advocate for sharing of student resources and publications with organisations supporting adults with print disabilities

**Examples:**

● Climate change information produced by state and territory departments of education

● NSW Department of Education 3D printing of ice melts in Antarctica

### Funding of Round Table Climate Change initiatives?

● Australian Government Climate Change Action Strategy 2020-2025 includes $140 million private sector mobilisation climate fund–<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/climate-change-action-strategy.pdf>

● Green Climate Fund–
[https://www.greenclimate.fund/#](https://www.greenclimate.fund/)

● GCF is a unique global platform to respond to climate change by investing in low-emission and climate-resilient development. GCF was established by 194 governments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in developing countries, and to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

## Closing perspectives

### Why not disability-inclusive climate change policies and action?

Top-down approaches needed:

● Political will (to become a world leader while retaining international competitiveness)

● Incentives for industry change (jobs and economic opportunities)

● Regulation

● Framework / architecture to give certainty to investors, researchers, etc.

### Why not disability-inclusive climate change policies and action? (2)

Bottom-up approaches needed:

Public awareness and demands on governments and industry

Climate change activism across the community, including across generational support for youth climate activists

### Why not disability-inclusive climate change policies and action? (3)

Wanted: Persons with vision impairment and other print disabilities …

…as government leaders and decision makers

…as bosses and employees of renewable industries

…as researchers (e.g., into use and storage of renewable energy)

…as architects designing energy efficient housing and cities

…as climate literacy teachers in schools and universities

…as human rights advocates and lobbyists in governments, the youth climate movement, and civil society organisations

## Sydney Symphony Orchestra performance of "The (Uncertain) Four Seasons"

Sydney Symphony Orchestra performance of "The (Uncertain) Four Seasons", an interpretation of Vivaldi's original score to reflect what climate change will sound like at a global scale.

<https://www.akqa.com/work/sydney-symphony-orchestra/the-uncertain-four-seasons/>

The project was a collaboration between the Monash University Climate Change Communication Research Hub (MCCCRH) and a digital design agency.

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