

Remarks at the Open-ended – Informal Consultative Meeting on the Post-2015 Framework for DRR

By Maryanne Diamond

Chair, International Disability Alliance

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I speak to you today as chair of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) – an alliance of the major global and regional organisations of persons with disabilities and their families. IDA is a network of networks: a membership-based organisation representing a unique and authoritative voice of the world's largest and mostly overlooked minority group.

Each of IDA's members has national and local members of their own and collectively advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities in more than 180 countries. The alliance represents all persons with disabilities from both the global south and the global north and as such it represents the largest collective of civil society organisations run by persons with disabilities themselves.

Persons with disabilities comprise 15% of the world's population with 80% living in the global south. As such, HUGE numbers of persons with disabilities are directly impacted as a result of all disasters and are rarely included in the planning, for such situations, recovery and reconstruction following such events.

I would like to highlight 3 main points in my brief time with you today:

1. All remaining discussions, forums, consultations, meetings leading up to the world conference in 2015 must be accessible and inclusive of persons with disabilities. This means: materials are available in accessible formats, buildings used must be accessible, sign interpreters provided, captioning provided to name a few.
2. Persons with disabilities must be seen as actors as well as recipients. We are an asset to this work and it is timely that this large population group be accepted as a major group.
3. In all planning for the conference, the conference and the Post 2015 DRR framework must adhere to the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD).

150 Countries have ratified the CRPD article 11 of that convention is very clear on this topic:

Article 11 – Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies

“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 disasters.”

Unless persons with disabilities are recognised as an asset, a major group, an asset and article 11 of the CRPD is adhered to, we will not achieve a DRR framework for all