

#EcoINCLUSION

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES facing the CLIMATE EMERGENCY

— DOCUMENT USING PLAIN LANGUAGE —



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE DERECHOS SOCIALES, CONSUMO
Y AGENDA 2030



REAL
PATRONATO SOBRE
DISCAPACIDAD

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#EcoINCLUSION PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES facing the CLIMATE EMERGENCY

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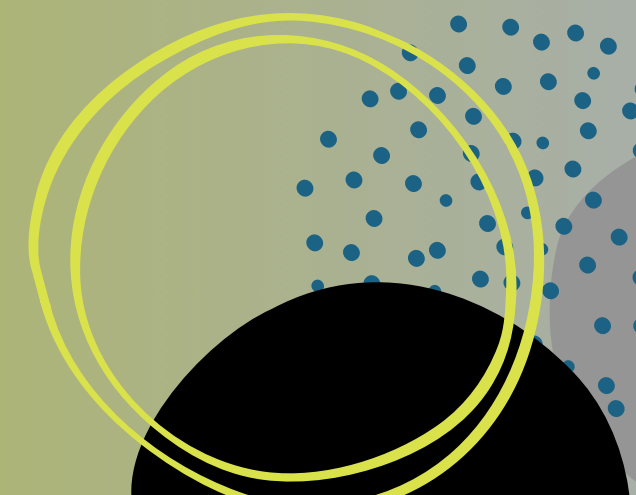
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1. INTRODUCTION

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an agreement between a lot of countries and it explains the rights of people with disabilities.

People with disabilities have the right to enjoy a healthy environment.

This means that they must enjoy an environment with no pollution.

For this reason, it is important that people with disabilities know what climate change is and the consequences that it has on their well-being and health.

This guide explains the effects climate changes has on the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

It also suggests ways to include people with disabilities in the public policies about ecology.

Everyone should help to avoid the climate change effects.

The goal of this guide is to ensure that all individuals working in the government and those working to improve the environment take people with disabilities into account.

Public policies and social movements about ecology have to take people with disabilities into account.

Institutions researching about disabilities have to understand how important ecology is.

Forests and oceans cannot wait anymore.



2. KEY CONCEPTS

Global accessibility

Global accessibility is a requirement that must be met by the places, products and services that everyone uses. The places, products and services should be easy to use and easy to understand for everyone. Cognitive accessibility is included in global accessibility. Cognitive accessibility is important because it helps people to understand situations and texts easily and clearly.

Policies on ecology should be accessible.

Climate change

Climate change means that the climate of the world is changing. Human being activities affect the climate. This changes can be seen in temperature, rainfall and clouds. Climate change is a threat against humanity.

Disability

A disability is a condition that a person has. For example: physical, intellectual or sensory disabilities. Many people have disabilities that last their whole life. People with disabilities encounter obstacles to engage in society. Climate change is more dangerous for people with disabilities.

Environmentalism

Environmentalism is a social and political movement that aims to take care of nature.

Inclusion

Inclusion is a process that ensures that everyone can engage in every life situation.

This includes society, environmentalism and climate change.

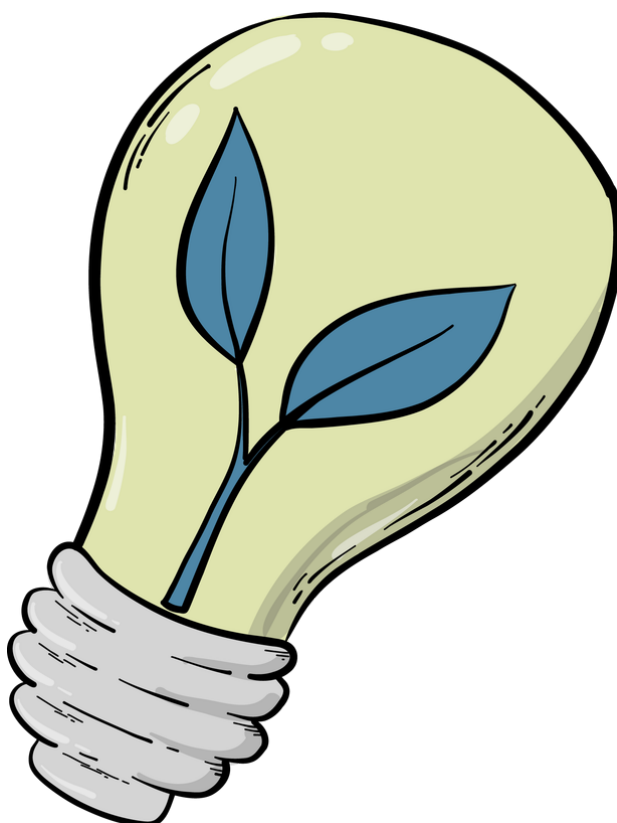
Inclusion is important to ensure human rights.

Inclusion is not discriminative or exclusive.

Just transition

A just transition means that climate change should not harm people with more risks and disadvantages.

People with more risks and disadvantages should use clean energy and products that do not pollute.



3. CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Climate change affects many people.

This includes people with disabilities.

Natural disasters and other climate change phenomena like droughts, affect the well-being and autonomy of people with disabilities.

People with disabilities and their families are more vulnerable to climate change.

This means that they face more disadvantages due to the economic situation, health status and the impediments they encounter regarding information, participation or rescuing in situations caused by climate change.

There are other conditions that affect people with disabilities and their families that can create more impediments:

- Having more expenses than other people.
Having less income to buy quality food.
- Discrimination due to being a woman or ageism.
Women with disabilities are victims of aggression during natural disasters and heat waves.
- Natural disasters like floods affect people with disabilities.
Services supporting the autonomy, social integration and rehab of people with disabilities are interrupted during natural disasters.
- Rescue protocols do not take into account the reality of people with disabilities and they also do not have accessible information.
- Health systems and social protections are not accessible.
Alert systems do not have accessible information.
For this reason, people with disabilities are at a greater risk during natural disasters, especially people living in rural areas.



Health effects and hospital care

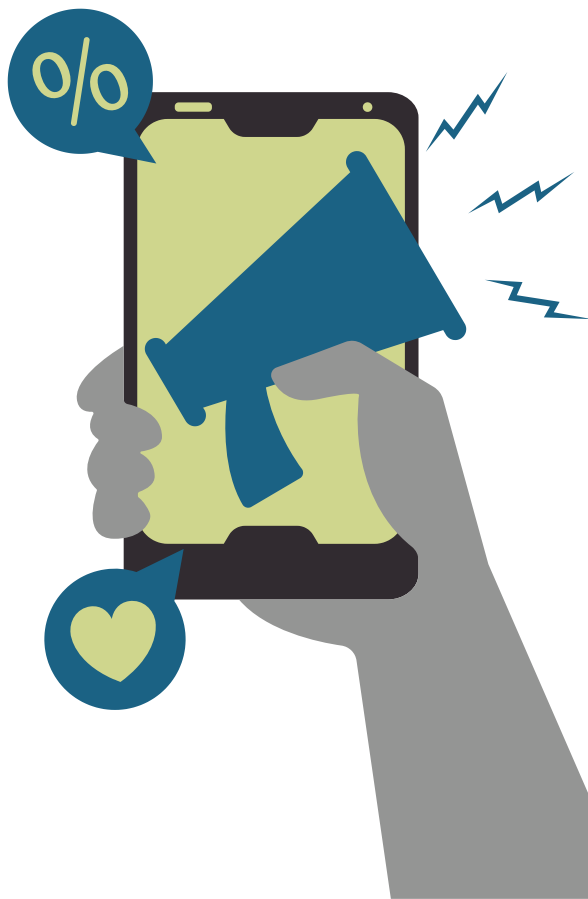
- Climate change increases the differences in hospital care and other healthcare services.
Many people with disabilities need accessible information on how climate change affects their well-being.
- Sometimes, during extreme situations, healthcare professionals do not treat people with disabilities.
This is considered discrimination against people with disabilities.
- Some people with disabilities are more at risk from extreme temperatures.
This includes people with rare diseases, autism or mental health conditions.
- Many people with disabilities need continuous healthcare assistance.
This assistance is interrupted before, during and after natural disasters.
- People with disabilities can lose different support elements during natural disasters.
For example: glasses, hearing aids or wheelchairs.
- Climate change and natural disasters produce stress, depression and anxiety among people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities are more at risk of suffering aggressions during emergencies, especially women and little girls with disabilities.

Means of life and work

- Climate change makes it more difficult for people with disabilities to keep or get back their jobs.
- Most of the people with disabilities do not have a job because they suffer from discrimination and also due to the lack of an inclusive education.
People with disabilities can lose job opportunities due to climate change.
- Some people with disabilities use elements that require electricity to survive.
For example: respirators and other electronic devices.
People who use these equipments are worried by electricity prices and blackouts.

Mobility

- A lot of people move out of their house due to climate change. People with disabilities rely on their resources and autonomy to be able to change the place where they live in. People with disabilities are more at risk of staying in dangerous places and without any support.
- People with disabilities are more at risk of getting hurt when moving is not safe enough.
- People with disabilities that are going to live in another city or country encounter obstacles when using public transport, looking for a place to live and other services. Some people with disabilities need personal assistance or service animals. This makes adapting to a new place more difficult.
- Natural disasters destroy the roads or paths to get to these places. They also affect other elements like elevators or ramps. For this reason, people with disabilities often get trapped and cut off during natural disasters.



4. LET'S ACT

The government, companies and society want to deal with climate change inclusively. For this reason, it is important to take into consideration the following recommendations:

- Ensuring that people with disabilities take part in the decisions and plans that deal with natural disasters.
- Including global accessibility in ecology policies so that people with disabilities can understand them.
- Teaching politicians and the people who work during natural disasters about the necessities of people with disabilities.
- Teaching people with disabilities to be able to speak up about their necessities and help them understand the consequences of climate change.
- Creating accessible information concerning the consequences climate change has on people with disabilities.
Politicians should create public policies that take into account people with disabilities and climate change.
- Ensuring that the emergency number is accessible and can be used by everyone.
- Having public meeting places to talk about ecological topics and disabilities.
- Ensuring jobs or financial aids for people with disabilities to help them live and take care of themselves in the presence of climate change.
- Having different procedures and protocols to help people with disabilities that need electrical devices to survive during natural disasters or blackouts.





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