File Name: Towards Disability-Inclusive Climate Action @ NYC Climate Week.mp4

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:30:22 - 00:00:37:14

**Yolanda Munoz:** Okay. Good afternoon. Good morning. Good evening everyone. Could I have your attention please. Bonjour, bonsoir tout le monde. Puis-je avoir votre attention, s'il vous plait? Buenas tardes, buenos días, buenas noches. Su atención, por favor. Vamos a comenzar.

00:00:49:21 - 00:01:12:21

**Yolanda Munoz:** Before starting I would like to provide some details about the logistics of the event as well as on the accessibility features. We have captioning services available, so if you click the caption button at the bottom of your screen you will be able to activate them. If you need to directly access the transcript of the event,

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**Yolanda Munoz:** there is a link in the chat bar where you can access the text and customize it to your preferences. All the participants will be in mute mode and their videos will not be available in the screens so we can focus on our speakers. You may also hide all the participants without video in the upper bar of this screen by clicking in the arrow and selecting hide all participants without video.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Each panelist will make a brief presentation and after that we will open up the conversation using the questions that we received in advance as a starting point. You may also ask questions in the live session in the Zoom chat bar. And, finally, please take note that this event is being recorded for educational purposes. Well, moving forward I would like to welcome you all here today to the event Disability-Inclusive Climate Action.

00:02:18:06 - 00:02:52:01

**Yolanda Munoz:** That is part of the Climate Week 2020 New York City. This event is hosted by the McGill Center for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism at the McGill Faculty of Law with the invaluable collaboration of the International Labour Organization, the International Disability Alliance, the Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities Global Network, the Pacific Disability Forum, the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association, Nepal, the World Institute on Disability and ONG Inclusiva.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** My name is Yolanda Muñoz and I am the coordinator of the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme (DICARP). This is the first public event we have organized as a group of scholars and activists interested in the subject of disability and its relation to climate action. DICARP aims to, first, generate and disseminate new knowledge at the intersections of disability rights and climate change.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** We also wish to empower persons with disabilities and their organizations in the field of climate change.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** We look also to identify and promote rights-based policies and practices for disability inclusive climate action. And finally, we wish to enhance the accessibility of climate decision making processes, communications, and solutions. I will chair today's conversation with guests from several regions of the world to go over the challenges and opportunities to produce knowledge and facilitate

00:04:05:15 - 00:04:36:16

**Yolanda Munoz:** a collaborative dialogue between disability rights defenders and climate action advocates. We will start with some opening remarks by Mrs. Marcie Roth, CEO of the World Institute on Disability. Mrs. Roth has served in senior and executive leadership roles for US national and global disability advocacy and public policy organizations since 1995,

00:04:36:18 - 00:05:17:22

**Yolanda Munoz:** establishing and leading coalitions committed to operationalizing disability inclusion as an intersectional imperative for global social justice. Mrs. Roth's focus on improving emergency preparedness and disaster outcomes for people with disabilities and building accessible disaster resilient communities, began in the immediate aftermath of the September 11 2001 terrorist attacks, while advising the White House on the rights and urgent needs of people with disabilities living in the area around ground zero.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** She is currently leading the initiative Global Alliance for Disaster Resource Acceleration. Mrs. Roth, the floor is yours.

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**Marcie Roth:** Good afternoon everybody. Thank you so much for having me. It is an honor to speak with you all today, especially as a member of the newly established Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme Advisory Panel.

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**Marcie Roth:** I am very excited to have the opportunity to welcome you all and to tell you a little bit about the intersections between the work that many of us have been doing, and to invite us all to come away from today's discussion with a real sense of partnership and a real

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**Marcie Roth:** feeling as though we have much important work to do together. I want to begin just briefly telling you about the World Institute on Disability.

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**Marcie Roth:** The World Institute on Disability, also known as WID, was established in 1983 as one of the first global disability rights organizations founded and continually led by people with disabilities.

00:06:56:09 - 00:07:29:01

**Marcie Roth:** We work to advance the rights and opportunities of over 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide, bringing research and policy into action, and operationalizing inclusion. Our work centers around digital tools for optimizing community living and employment, accessibility solutions, and excellence in disability inclusive emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and climate resilience.

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**Marcie Roth:** I share all of this to say that the work that my organization has been doing, very much like many of you, has stretched over a long period of time with a shared goal of bringing together the world's people to optimize our shared power, our shared commitment to leaving no one behind, our shared belief that every community is stronger when every one of us has the opportunity to optimize our own potential and the potential of the people around us.

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**Marcie Roth:** I have been a long-standing leader in the global disability inclusive disaster risk reduction movement, first coming together with several of our other speakers

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**Marcie Roth:** in the years and days that preceded the 2015 adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

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**Marcie Roth:** There are a number of initiatives underway that are working, I'm afraid in silos, and

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**Marcie Roth:** the opportunity to be a part of this new advisory panel, and as well to speak with you all today, is an opportunity that I see to bring together the leaders in environmental justice, climate justice, humanitarian action. The work that we do on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and many other complementary initiatives.

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**Marcie Roth:** We need to be working at what a good friend of mine recently coined a term that I'm enjoying using and that is we need to be working 'glocally'.

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**Marcie Roth:** We need to be working at the global level, but we all know that the real action begins at the local level. And so each of us needs to be looking around our own community, not just to find the people who we think might need us to take care of them or might need us to be planning for them but rather to make sure that in our own community that we are working collaboratively with disability-led organizations, organizations led by persons with disabilities as partners in ensuring that our local communities have the resources, have the shared initiatives in order to contribute to the goals of climate change.

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**Marcie Roth:** And so, we ask all of you if you're not currently working with people with disabilities, if your work is planning for people, if your work is not inclusive or not accessible to people with disabilities,

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**Marcie Roth:** we have a phrase “nothing about us without us.”

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**Marcie Roth:** So, if you're working to be sure that no one is left behind if you're working to be sure your community is equitable and inclusive, if the work that you're doing is to disrupt exclusion, we ask you to join us in accelerating radical inclusion.

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**Marcie Roth:** We all need each other. You need us as much as we need you and we want very much to be at the table working in silos together. I'm sorry.

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**Marcie Roth:** Working to break down silos together, whether it's in addressing our local transportation or the opportunities for our children, or whether it's in the workplace. No matter where we're working, we need to make sure that we are combining our power and lifting up the whole community working

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**Marcie Roth:** collaboratively for everyone's future. Thank you very much for the opportunity to spend time with you. And I'll turn back to Dr. Munoz.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you thank you very, very much. Mrs. Roth this is a very important

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**Yolanda Munoz:** point of departure for what comes next. And our first speaker for

00:12:56:22 - 00:13:29:15

**Yolanda Munoz:** today is Mr. Stefan Trömel, who many of you probably know or have heard of. He has been the Senior Disability Specialist in the International Labor Organization since August 2013. He actively participated in the negotiations of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and was the coordinator and executive director of the International Disability Alliance between 2008 and 2013.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Today Stefan Trömel will share with us his expertise in the topic of disability in the transition to a low carbon economy. Thank you very, very much for being with us today.

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**Stefan Trömel:** Thank you. Thank you.

00:13:47:22 - 00:14:25:08

**Stefan Trömel:** Thank you Yolanda for the invitation of joining you today and congratulations for this webinar because you are addressing an issue that is long overdue and it has been interesting to see over the last year how a number of different individuals and organizations have won us at the same time come to the conclusion that climate change discussions have for too long overlooked the angle of the involvement of persons with disabilities, so it's good to that we start putting an end to that to that oversight.

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**Stefan Trömel:** I would basically do two things. On one hand I would very briefly explain what we have been doing in the ILO and we are at the very early stages. Let me just make that very clear from the beginning, and then I would to share a few ideas about things that,

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**Stefan Trömel:** opportunity, I think that we all have to promote disability inclusion in the context of the climate change discussions. In November last year we organized in the ILO. I'm the head of a small disability team in the ILO and we every year organize a conference on which was a particular focusing on the private sector and getting private sector more committed to disability inclusion. And last year we organized a bigger conference under the title “Making the future of work inclusive of persons with disabilities”.

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**Stefan Trömel:** And we looked at a number of issues but one of the things that we did at that conference was also launched what we called a policy brief not too long document under the title “Persons with disabilities in a just transition to a low carbon economy.” Now the ILO has been following the climate change discussions for a number of years with a very particular angle which is the angle of what we call just transition and the concept of just transition which was coined by some trade unions is basically the message saying that in this process from a carbon intensive economy to a low carbon economy, to a green economy, we need to ensure that that the jobs that will be lost should be replaced by new jobs and that these new jobs are also decent jobs, decent work well-paid etc.

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**Stefan Trömel:** The concept that the ILO. So we've been part of that process as we have a department in the ILO that deals with that. It's our green jobs department but it's fair to say that they as many others who have been taking part in climate change discussion and never thought about the disability angle. And that was what we tried to achieve with this document. We tried to make it clear to them that in their important work of promoting this just transition they should think about that this just transition is not only to be gender inclusive, gender responsive but also needs to be disability inclusive.

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**Stefan Trömel:** So that was the purpose of our document and we made very basic points. Nothing groundbreaking, it's basically about reminding that if governments are investing in new industries and creating new jobs

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**Stefan Trömel:** that are low carbon and environmental, that they should think about persons with disabilities being part of the… of those that would be working in these new jobs. And if governments we invest in skills development programs, vocational training for people to acquire the required skills for these jobs, including digital skills -sometimes they also have digital skills. Again, it's important that these training this investment made in training is inclusive of persons with disabilities.

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**Stefan Trömel:** So basically, our message was people with disabilities and needs to be part of this wave of new employment. It's not clear how big the figures are there are some questions around that. But it's also quite clear that some of these figures will very much depend on how much our governments will be investing in this move from to a low carbon economy. Still it's a market which is quite dependent on public investment. Now for us it was clear when early this year, before COVID 19 appeared in our lives we had we had to say this year to make climate change and just transition and disability one of our key areas and we were planning to take part in the climate change negotiations that did not take part at the end of the year.

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**Stefan Trömel:** In that context we would reach out to some of them. Then everything because of COVID 19 we put that on hold. We have deferred that a bit and focus on other issues. But we'll definitely come back to this very soon. But definitely one of our key messages is we need to promote together

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**Stefan Trömel:** the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities and other allies in the global climate change negotiations and of course in our context the other context we would be particularly focusing on the concept of just transition, on the employment side sort of the process. But for sure others would be focusing on other issues. And if we all go that together in a coordinated way, I think we can have an impact on that, on these negotiations very similar to the impact that organizations of persons with disabilities had for instance at the Sendai conference.

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**Stefan Trömel:** And as you know there are a lot of complementarities between disaster risk reduction and climate change. But let me say that's the first part of a very, very brief presentation of what we have been doing which just that it was the beginning of the process, but then I think there are a few challenges and opportunities that I would like to mention which are relevant for all of us that are that are trying now to push disability inclusion in this context. One is COVID 19. COVID 19 is a huge challenge,

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**Stefan Trömel:** as we know, from a disability context for many other contexts but those with disabilities have definitely been very severely impacted by the crisis, both from a health point of view, also from an economic point of view. And that's a negative but it's also clear that all the messages are that the strategy out of the out of the combat the pandemic, these plans that will not be put in place to create new jobs needs to be need to be take into account climate change; climate change, environmental issues just transition is clearly seen as a as a key part in this building back better strategy is a way out of the out of the pandemic. And governments are currently designing socio economic response plans.

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**Stefan Trömel:** What are the measures that governments will take to revitalize the economy, and we need to pay particular attention to disability inclusion in that context and also in particular to those measures that would be taking to promote this green environmentally friendly exit from the strategy. We need to see the link between this national response plans to the crisis or with the with the commitments that that governments are making. And although this year in the context of the climate change.

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**Stefan Trömel:** But called the national determined contributions we need to see that these contributions we usually completely ignored the situation of persons with disabilities. We need to find ways of connecting these different initiatives and to make sure that the exit from the crisis is a green exit by environmental exit, But that also includes persons with disabilities in all its dimensions including ones in the plumbing dimension which is the dimension that the ILO will be focusing on.

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**Stefan Trömel:** There are two other possible opportunities, but we need to push for them they will not come automatically. One is and I saw one in the chat somebody asked the question about, about funders in particular was that the Australian fund. What was mentioned the

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**Stefan Trömel:** foreign affairs department. I think that is very important. We need to make sure that donors which I think in the current context but now that focus on COVID 19, donors are also putting a lot of money in, to climate to promote climate change. Let's probably would bring those two things together. And many of those donors have made a commitment to the bidding.

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**Stefan Trömel:** As many of you know there's now a commitment in the context of the OECD Development Assistance Committee to promote disability inclusion in in multilateral bilateral talks. But donors have not often yet realised is that when they put a lot of money for the COVID 19 a lot of money now for it for climate change. This money also needs to take into account persons with disabilities. So we need to to make that that message very strong.

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**Stefan Trömel:** And the other interesting potentially interesting entry point is now we have since last year we have a UN United Nations disability inclusion strategy. And I think that is that is important it is really meaning a change in many of the U.N. entities and entities that up until now had never thought about a disability and now it is a bit the focal point are revising their their mainstream programs to include more significantly possible disabilities and that includes also the secretariat to the to the UNFCCC under the UN framework for climate change, as you know has a Secretariat based in Bonn and they have now also put a new development thanks to this new strategy of having a person who is now in charge of promoting disability inclusion in that context and one very clear

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**Stefan Trömel:** way of promoting that and very much learning from the from the success of the Sendai conference is promoting accessibility in the climate change discussion.

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**Stefan Trömel:** I think that will be one of the most strategic ways of permanently reminding all delegates that take part in these climate change discussions at global level, that persons with disabilities are a key stakeholder and that we need to push for accessibility as is we do and that will lead in one way or the other will lead also to references to persons with disabilities and the different

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**Stefan Trömel:** workstreams that are part of the global climate change discussion and that of course will then leads to reflection also at local level as well as much of saying that of course at the end of the day that is where the change will happen. Yolanda, I’ll leave it there. So back to you and I will stay of course in the webinar for any comments or questions now or at a later stage. Thank you.

00:24:28:05 - 00:25:07:05

**Yolanda Munoz:** Well thank you very much. Stephan yes. There are several questions for you that arrived beforehand so we will discuss about these. Our next speaker is Mrs. Pratima Gurung, Pratima Gurung is a leading academic activist from Nepal and she is joining us today from Kathmandu. She has engaged in research that includes gender disability, indigenous identities and inclusion, and has published a number of articles on these issues both nationally and internationally. Through her research,

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**Yolanda Munoz:** she highlights Hidden Voices from the ground and those her activism through organizations like the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association of Nepal or NIDWAN, n-i-d-w-a-n, and the indigenous peoples with disabilities global network, and the works in collaboration with the International Disability Alliance and the disability rights advocacy fund. Today, Pratima will share with us her insights on the subject of indigenous women with disabilities in the context of the climate crisis.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Mrs. Gurung, thank you very, very much for being with us today

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**Yolanda Munoz:** despite the time difference

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**Pratima Gurung:** Thank you.

00:25:53:02 - 00:26:26:09

**Pratima Gurung:** Thank you Yolanda. Thank you all of you for organizing this wonderful discussion towards the Disability Inclusion Climate change access especially in light of this COVID pandemic situation. We all are worried about the current situation how the pandemic has affected each of us distinctly as a woman, indigenous woman and a woman with disabilities, and we as a person with disabilities we are heterogeneous groups and we need comes to the agenda of building back better,

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**Pratima Gurung:** We need to address this heterogeneous group at the same time. But the issues like climate change, concurrently has impacted closely on our lives with greater risks and vulnerability. Today I'm sharing these stories based on the work that we have done at the community level in the global south. We are facing the challenges in the ground from the world's tallest mountainous countries: Nepal. Nepal has the diversity of many forms like geographically, culturally linguistically, religiously and among many marginalized groups.

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**Pratima Gurung:** Historically, structural, direct and indirect discrimination persists among marginalized groups like women, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities. The issue of climate change is alarming because Nepal is one of the least developed countries in the world and ranked as the fourth vulnerable country during the impacts of climate change. It has found that the temperature of Nepal is warming faster in the global average. The fact of the country's fragile ecosystem, topography, high dependency on agriculture and low GDP including other climate induced hazards like floods, droughts and landslide.

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**Pratima Gurung:** These impacts have directly and indirectly impacted the lives of people who are already at risk, and socially and economically and culturally marginalized. Groups having multiple and intersectional identities like indigenous women with disabilities, experience adverse effects of climate change because we often live in the areas of higher links of climate change, near the mountains, snow, hilly areas, armed conflict and exploitation by the extractive industries and developmental projects.

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**Pratima Gurung:** The mountains, the snow, glaciers, have melted and outburst leading into the heavy flood, destroying the farmland and properties, impacting the livelihoods. Human casualties and increasing the disability and impairment. When the hydropower dams are open without prior information to the public. The frequent bomb blast in the hydropower projects have created several mental health and psychosocial problems, hearing and bodily impairment problems among children, young people and elders and women, are these

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**Pratima Gurung:** frequent happening that is happening in our community. We have impacts on our health, food security, housing, water and sanitation and livelihood mobility, and others, and we are often compelled to force internal migrations, displacement, gender-based violence and violation of human rights in different forms. That contributes to attitudinal, psychological, environmental, institutional, and multiple identity and problematic barriers in our life, which many of us are only unaware of. Climate exit in climate change discourse has not been and has ended in the disability and disability inclusive climate excellent in indigenous and women movement in Nepal and in Asia.

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**Pratima Gurung:** There is a huge gap of awareness on climate change issues and there is no link with disability, gender and indigenous peoples including the intersectional issues and the climate policies plans projects and practices that have impact the lives of persons with disabilities, indigenous women, and women with disabilities specifically. It has been largely invisible to the policymakers and experts in the field of climate governance including the multilateral climate negotiation.

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**Pratima Gurung:** So, for us we believe that it is time to question among all the stakeholders, the developing partners, and the right holders working in the climate negotiations and climate global discussions, that are really working in a right based approach. Who do we want to target and why? So, it's time for us to raise awareness collectively and generate the knowledge and the climate change issues and policies and plans related with disasters. And also equally linked with the disability gender, ethnicity and integrate intersectional lens. For me,

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**Pratima Gurung:** it is high time to invest in the research document and also bring evidence-based advocacy and findings to sensitize the vulnerable and impacted group with a specific target interventions. Meaningful participation and consultations of persons with disabilities and indigenous people with disabilities at all levels is very much crucial, so that we will be acknowledging the diversity of every individual's, leaving no one behind and also respecting 'nothing about us without us.'

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**Pratima Gurung:** So, I just thank you for listening me and also will come that I will be joining with other discuss and related with the questions and answers that comes around.

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**Pratima Gurung:** Thank you for listening me

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**Yolanda Munoz:** thank you very, very much.

00:31:44:29 - 00:32:21:17

**Yolanda Munoz:** Mrs Gurung. This has been very important for starting our conversation later with some questions and we will, we will give the floor to our next speaker who is Mr. Setareki Macanawai. He is currently the CEO of the Pacific Disability Forum and he is based in Fiji. Previously, Mr. Macanawai was the executive director of the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons and health teacher of the Fiji School for the Blind.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** He is co-founder and culture person of the indigenous peoples with disabilities global network. He holds a master's degree in educational administration with honors from the University of New England in South Wales, Australia. Mr. Macanawai has received a number of regional and international awards in recognition of his professional and academic achievements in the field of disability. He is a leading disability advocate in Asia and the Pacific region and has served on the committees of various international and regional organisations focused on disability rights.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** He has presented papers at regional and international conferences and has published several articles on disability. He is a keen advocate of disability inclusive development where persons with disabilities and their representative organisations play a key role in all aspects of development. Today he will share with us his perspective on the impacts of climate change for persons with disabilities: The case of the Pacific Island countries.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Mr. Macanawai, welcome. Thank you very much for being here today.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** Thank you Yolanda and

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**Setareki Macanawai:** good morning from Fiji and the Pacific Islands. And good evening. Good afternoon to those of you that are joining us through this webinar. I do also echo the precision of my fellow colleagues on the panel. Those of us spoken in thanking the organisers for

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**Setareki Macanawai:** see it fit to have this webinar and of course the participants that have joined in this wonderful conversation. This is timely, as our good friend Stefan has spoken.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** The issue of disability and climate change. Here in the Pacific was the work that we are doing with the Pacific Disability Forum. We are also beginning to

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**Setareki Macanawai:** to get our feet wet if you like, in this particular area. We've done some work already good work in the area of disaster risk reduction, a disability inclusive disaster risk reduction for about 10 years now. Now climate change to us is new and for us to address the impact of climate change or persons with disabilities, I think it is useful for us to have some understanding of context here in the Pacific.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** Insofar as climate change is concerned.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** We are saying that the Pacific Island countries are extremely vulnerable to climate change

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**Setareki Macanawai:** and will affect the way that we live and a sustainable development of our country in very profound ways. We are also seeing that the most substantially impact of climate change have included the following that we've seen in the region. Losses of coastal infrastructure and land. Salient

00:35:49:15 - 00:36:26:13

**Setareki Macanawai:** intrusion where the sea water is flowing into freshwater supplies. We've seen more intense cyclones and droughts in this region. We begin to see the failure of subsistence crops and coastal fishing. Here we talk about food security and income generating activities. We've also seen the loss of coral reefs and mangroves and of course the spread of certain diseases in our region, all due to climate change.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** And we also say that least from our region this is one of the greatest barriers in this century to sustainable development.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** Now, I've highlighted a few issues that we are facing in terms of impact of climate change in the Pacific. Therefore for all Pacific Islanders across the 20 a little over 20 Sea countries and territories. We are small island developing states, Pacific Seeds as we have referred to in the United Nations work. But we also see ourselves not just a small island developing states but a large ocean states because of our ocean, and as persons with disabilities, we in the Pacific Disability Forum as I said,

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**Setareki Macanawai:** we are beginning to get involved actively involved in finding out what's the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities and to help us do that.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** We are currently in the first year of a project

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**Setareki Macanawai: “**Disability Inclusion Climate Change Adaptation Project” that's funded by the government of Australia, the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership

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**Setareki Macanawai:** and this project is focusing on gathering evidence

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**Setareki Macanawai:** on the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities in three countries, in the Pacific. That's Kiribati, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands. The first phase that we are currently working on is identifying the evidence of climate change of persons with disabilities. And for us to do that, what are the vulnerabilities and opportunities to build resilience and support climate change adaptation focused on disabilities, and secondly building of capacity of national disabled people organization of three countries to engage in this space. And what we found that this be the first phase,

00:38:40:05 - 00:38:59:28

**Setareki Macanawai:** the first stage that will do will ensure that we are about to begin, these three countries will then feed into the second phase of this project. Hopefully next year. Now we have conducted a literature review to help us better understand the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities in the Pacific,

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**Setareki Macanawai:** we found very little to no information available or apparent on persons with disabilities. This is a thing, as we've heard previously from our colleagues in the panel, it's new territory but it does not give us the reason of doing nothing. So we are assuming and we are hoping that here in the Pacific at least, through this project will give us a credible data to unpack just like what Stefan did I mentioned earlier, rather such as I'll send a framework in ensuring accessibility of persons with disabilities and challenge the process of the meeting to ensure this becomes disability inclusive.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** The same we should be doing for climate change. So what we also found in this very good literature on the impact but also we found that persons with disabilities we know very little and do not really understand about what climate change is. We can see the impact. But actually that's of course of course about climate change. We have little knowledge of that also.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** We also found that as Pacific Islands people, we too experience the impact of the climate change but more at a more serious level.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** And we were heard from some of the countries that, one of the three countries that we are doing this research in, that we know that the challenge around assessing when they see storm surges, this king tide

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**Setareki Macanawai:** in the sea water level into the inundation into these some of the countries that are quite flat, a coral ecology in nature they don't have high mountains, finding a safe space is a challenge.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** And we also are seeing that persons with disabilities are just like what Pratima said from Nepal in terms of indigenous persons with disabilities. The intersection of climate change on persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities. Some of the repayment groups, or some of our intersectionality make an impact it just be the impact of climate change on our lives.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** We also think too that in the region, the layout of the geographical layout is also exacerbating the effect of climate change. So I think for us we are really hoping that this research we're doing will give us relevant information and also the work that we being part of, through this this webinar through the university, that we'll be able to gather useful data from around the world to help us as a movement of persons with disabilities to clear out space

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**Setareki Macanawai:** in the climate change debate. And then as I close Yolanda, I certainly support the work and echo the words of Stefan, we need to get involved and become engaged in the climate debate change debate and spaces so that we are heard and we can draw on the success of our engagement and disabilities will increase Disaster Risk Reduction,

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**Setareki Macanawai:** the Sendai Framework in particular. So, I close by encouraging all our partners

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**Setareki Macanawai:** in the disability to working with disability stakeholders around the world are there to support us in this course. Climate change affects everyone including persons with disabilities. There's no reason why we should be left out, left behind in this climate change adaptation and related work. I thank you Yolanda and I stop here, and I will remain available for questions that may arise

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**Setareki Macanawai:** afterwards.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very, very much Mr. Macanawai for this valuable contribution to our dialogue.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Our next speaker is Carlos Kaiser. As a person with a disability, Carlos has started, has shared I'm sorry, his expertise in inclusive build back better in Chile, after two great earthquakes and tsunamis, wildfires, landslides and other natural disasters. Mr. Kaiser has been working for the protection of human rights of people with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Mr. Kaiser is part of the first target group on Disability Disaster Risk Reduction Global Focal Point. He is the executive director of Inclusiva NGO in Chile or ONG Inclusiva,

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**Yolanda Munoz:** an organization that won the 2014 risk award and was nominated for the Sasakawa award in 2015. In the same year in 2015, Mr Kaiser represented the people with disabilities in the high-level Partnership Dialogue on inclusive disaster risk management, governments, communities and groups acting together in Sendai, Japan. He is also a member of the United Nations Sendai framework indicators and terminology team, and special session number two organizing team members, as well as part of the team that worked on the Dhaka declaration and led a team specifically addressing people with disabilities in the Chile-Japan earthquake tsunami drill.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Today Mr Kaiser's talk will cover the subject of enhancing people with disabilities awareness and significant participation of environmental justice. Thank you very much for being with us today. Mr. Kaiser, the floor is yours.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** Thanks for this kind presentation.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** I have to say that is for me a great honor to speak, also to share the stage with a previous panelists and people that are going to speak later.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** They have a tremendous high level. I have to say that the work we have us at Inclusiva and the professional role I have been how well I have been working on it for several years, has been also in the academic sector. I wrote more than twenty books, manuals and articles on this issue. Also have been working with the network that we create and we represent, the Latin American of the Caribbean Disaster and Disability Solution Network.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** We are happy to have this network. We have them great institution like RIADIS, that represent people with disabilities and their families in the continent. Also, we have UNDRR.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** We have the Pan American Health Organization, also UNICEF, ASB, HI, CBM the partnership for inclusive disaster relief strategies and several other members. It's no also to represent them and to be also part of this initiative. When we are talking about the, how can we enhance people with disabilities awareness and significant participation in environmental justice,

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**Carlos Kaiser:** we have to start clarifying some aspects. For instance, as you know, we cannot separate the issues yet because we want it. I mean for instance when people say that today we are facing the pandemic, we have to say that so not diseases like COVID-19 happened. Yes, because climate change. We are reducing the environmental spaces, thus we are destroying nature and that is why we are producing pandemics.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** Among other issues. So, we have to establish some conflicts. For instance according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, environmental justice is deferred treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income. You can notice that this definition, although it tried to be inclusive, has no mention explicit mention of people with disabilities.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** They said that with respect to the development implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulation, and policies, this goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys those rights. We are supposed to have those rights not only in the US. Government laws. We are talking about many laws from different countries, they mention everyone but us. That's a huge problem. We are a group that they call us a vulnerable group.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** Sometimes I believe that we are an invisible group.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** Well this agency shares that the same degree of protection, from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the protection, is needed in order to make this process something that can work. If we do declare that same degree of protection for environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process is a must, therefore inclusion of people with disabilities is a vital and key aspect.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** If we really want to achieve solid environmental justice, it cannot be achieved without us. More than one billion people. Huge number. But this number sometimes is not introduced even into academic sector. Do you remember when we were aware attending college or university the institutions we get our professional degrees, when we were yes learning about free status all the aspects related

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**Carlos Kaiser:** to statistics and our professors told us,

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**Carlos Kaiser:** don't have biases. You don't have to, for instance, commit the error or the mistake of not having an important variable. This is a bias.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** Well if 15 or even 20 percent of the global population correspond to people with disabilities, and if they are not taking this number into account, sorry: their statistics are not going to work properly, because it lacks scientific aspects. And that's yes because of a cultural issue. So, when we try to have the role of science into this, we need to have an unbiased science.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** If not, we are not having the fruits of those efforts. So, we have to say things. We're talking about environmental justice and people with disabilities. But let's look deeper into the very concept of justice. For instance, according to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, the idea of justice occupies center stage both in ethics and in legal and political philosophy.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** We apply it to individual actions, to laws and to public policies, and we think in each case that if they are unjust, this is a strong maybe even conclusive reason to react to reject them. Classically, yes this was counted as one of the four cardinal reaches and sometimes of the most important of the four. In other times, for instance if you read John Rose, he described it as the first virtue of social institutions.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** Let us talk about this, about the institutions. If institutions do not start enhancing people with disabilities awareness and significant participation in environmental justice, the latter is absent, and no virtue is possible into the very core of institutions. So, I am saying clearly and loud that we need virtue into our institutions, and we are not having not enough, because the lack of our participation. And it's not just about them giving us some funds.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** It's not just about opportunities. It's about equal participation and meaningful one. “Nothing about us without us”… is so good. When I listen one of the previous panelists telling us about the United Nation adjustments that they are having a plan is good. Because what's kind of weird to have an agency telling governments what to do when they're we're not doing these things in the first place. So, when do you say that exclusion

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**Carlos Kaiser:** isn't a state of mind and of the cultures and it's linking to environmental damage. Let's take it as for instance as an example the Amsterdam Treaty. They have an approach to sustainable development and considers that economic, social, and environmental dimensions must go hand-in-hand and mutually reinforce one another. But if there is a lack of people with disabilities, they're not hand-in-hand. So, we can say that these sort of a social approach with or without us there is no environmental issue.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** Without us there's no society. They're just ignoring us because they want it. Sometimes because we allow it.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** Well we have to say that sustainable development aims at their continuous improvement of the quality of life of each or both current and future generations. It is about safeguarding the Earth's

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**Carlos Kaiser:** capacity to support life and its diversity. I have to tell you something in order to finish my presentation. 4 years ago, I was invited to give a lecture in the south part of Chile. The south part of Chile, there's the Mapuche. Mapuche, they are our sisters here, our indigenous people. Machis are the wise people among them, most of them are women, and they're are the ones that try to be one with nature.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** The Machis Council told five years ago that regional medicine is no longer possible because we the Wincas, are the Chileans that are know that we are not considering them so native people that that's also the sort of lie because we have a lot in common. But ok let's say that wants to pretend that are not real people. We have already destroyed nature in an aspect that is beyond recovery from a Mapuche’s culture.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** So what I'm saying here is that because of our pride or because we want to consume everything, we are putting labels into people saying whether you are an OK person or where you are disabled, so you are not entitled to have your rights. I know that we were working hard on it and I know that we have several, several papers, agreements and so on.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** But let's face the truth. When COVID came, all the speeches went down for me. Two thirds of people dying because of COVID are people with disabilities.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** And we have to struggle so hard. The group we create, even get a letter from the secretary general of the United Nations so good. We made research, we made a lot of things, but why are we just responding to things that we are supposed to fight beforehand. So, we are just expecting things to come differently if we are not changing our ways of doing things. That's my last parting. I want to say thanks for the organization for having these marvelous people speaking and I especially want to thank the university saying that it's a great, great job, thanks Sebastian and all the team for making this real.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** Thanks.

00:56:17:23 - 00:56:53:16

**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very, very much Carlos. And precisely. Yes. Our next speaker is professor Sébastien Jodoin, who is the leader of the Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme. And he is the mastermind behind this event. Dr. Sébastien Jodoin is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Law at McGill University and holds the Canada Research Chair here to in Human Rights and the Environment.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** He is the co-editor of The Handbook of Human Rights and Climate governance that was published by Routledge in 2018, and recently developed and launched a guide entitled The Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. As a scholar living with a disability, he is currently leading a number of research projects looking at the links between disability rights and climate change, funded through grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Steinberg Fund for Interdisciplinary Global Health Research.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Prior to this appointment at McGill, he worked at the United Nations and the Canadian branch of Amnesty International. Today, professor Jodoin will cover the topic: A Disability Rights Approach to Climate Change. Professor Jodoin, the floor is yours.

00:57:56:24 - 00:58:22:09

**Sébastien Jodoin:** Well thank you so much Yolanda for that generous introduction and thank you to all the other panelists. Since you have already thanked me and the university for what we're doing, let me actually say that, in fact, as someone who is new to the field of disability rights we are learning from you.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** Building on your successes and it's been tremendous

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** for us to be able to work with you in this new field. So, I want to I want us to get to the questions. I want to also hear from a colleague from the International Disability Alliance, so I'm am not going take up too much time.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** I want to sort of briefly discuss three ways in which disability rights and climate change intersect and at the same time I'll discuss a little bit what research we hope to do and are doing with Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program. So the first thing I want to say is as the other panelists have already discussed, climate change has adverse implications for a broad range of human rights held by disabled people and with some colleagues in my lab we have co-authored an article where we review the impacts of climate change on the rights of disabled people to life, health, work, housing, water, food, freedom of movement, personal mobility and independent living.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** And we also as it was eloquently discussed most most notably by Pratima Gurung, these challenges are most felt most acutely by populations in developing countries and especially by women, minorities, indigenous peoples, children and the elderly with disabilities. So, what are disability rights lens allows us to do is to recognize the greater vulnerability of the disability community to the consequences of climate change, stems from these multiple economic, social, and political barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** So for those who are more familiar or who are part of the disability community you will know but for those who aren't or maybe more and you know part of the climate field as, well so personal disabilities are typically among the most marginalized within the community, and they face disparate access to education, health care, employment, transportation and other basic goods and services. And again for since if you're joining and you're new to the field of disability you should know that estimates range around15 percent of the population in the world has a disability, although I'm Canadian and in Canada now we're up to officially around 20 percent and that's also a result of our aging population.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** So one of the things that we want to do with the Programme and we have a grant to do this and this work is will begin soon is, we want to do community based research working with the disability community to understand the adaptive capacity of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change. So this would be empirical research where we would be interviewing members of the disability community, holding focus groups, and we'll be trying to understand what are the strategies that they use to cope with and adapt to different climate impacts, but also what are the barriers that they face in trying to do this.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** And then finally trying to co-design and identify rights-based approaches to enhance their resilience to climate change.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** The second thing I want to discuss is the relationship between disability rights and the climate justice movement more broadly. So, because when we recognize that climate change has these adverse effects for the rights of persons with disabilities, we are of course therefore then clearly supporting through by invoking disability rights clearly supporting the obligation of states to undertake measures to rapidly and effectively reduce their carbon emissions.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** And what comes with that as well is not only this obligation to combat climate change, but to ensure that when combating climate change, that states do this in a way that addresses rather than reinforces existing social inequities. So, if I'm referring now here to the to the work done by the ILO,

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** the importance of ensuring this just transition and that this just transition in disability inclusive is really key. So, an example that we often discuss while we know that in many countries the development of mass transit systems will be really important for reducing carbon emissions from automobiles, these mass transit systems are often inaccessible to persons with physical mobility and visual impairments. And so if we want this transition to a low carbon world to be effective and also inclusive, it needs to be accessible.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** Another thing that I want to point out as well of course is that if a state fails to take sufficient action to combat climate change, well this could constitute a violation of their obligations to respect and protect the rights of persons with disabilities under international law or domestic law. So, there have been now there's numerous cases around the world that are

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** alleging that inaction by the state of on the part of governments, excuse me, to combat climate change, is a violation of human rights of different groups. Now there isn't one single case at this point that's been launched on behalf of persons with disabilities. We have cases launched on behalf of children and youth, also older women in Switzerland for instance. So, there are all these cases, and none mentioned disability. However, a few do mention impairments and how those make the plaintiffs more susceptible or vulnerable to climate impacts.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** So, the Swiss woman's case actually they mentioned is impairments. There's a number of children's cases and in North America that's where the children have asthma or Lyme disease, and they mentioned how that makes them more vulnerable to climate impacts. But we've yet to see an actual climate case law on the basis of disability. However, I think that there is a very strong case for developing such a lawsuit and it's something that we are actively working on. And of course, if anyone on in this meeting is interested in contributing to or putting together a case like that please contact me.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** It's of interest to me and to and to many people that I work with. I will say that perhaps there is the first the first climate case made on the basis of disability rights maybe the Brooklyn Center for Independence and the Disabled v. Bloomberg. This was a case that was launched against the to basically after Hurricane Sandy, the city of New York had failed to ensure that its disaster risk readiness sorry, its distaster risk response was accessible to persons with disabilities and what this case did was and eventually led to a settlement with the city of New York, and oblige the city to ensure that its responses to disasters such as Hurricane Sandy, were accessible to persons with disabilities.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** So I think actually on the climate the failure also to have a disability inclusive-climate adaptation or disaster readiness programs is also a very strong area of litigation that we might see in in the future. OK. Finally, I want to talk about what we mean by disability inclusive climate action and what we are hoping to, what kind of research we hope to do in this area. So really what we're trying to do here is ensure that persons with disabilities are recognized as agents that in the climate movement, and understanding how they can make contributions to the world's efforts to reach carbon neutrality, adapt to our changing planet. And so, there is this concept

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** coming out to the sort of this literature in the field of disability and feminism, and it's this idea of recognizing disabled persons as knowers, makers and doers. So, I think a lot of our disabled speakers and people in the audience probably recognize themselves in this. I certainly do. I think that we are constantly having to find solutions and to thrive in a world that's not been designed with us. We constantly have to innovate. And let me just give you one example of this and how it can be useful in thinking about reducing your carbon emissions. So, teleworking.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** Right. So if you have an impairment you may benefit or have requested the ability to work remotely given, depending on of course the field that you're working in, and while this happens to also be something that can be useful in terms of reducing carbon emissions and having not to travel. Right. And another thing is that we are also often again to be able to survive or to thrive, we have to be experts in resilience. Right.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** We have to figure out ways to cope with change, to cope with impairments or barriers that we face. And here again I'm going to maybe refer to teleworking as an example as well which is that, I know that in many industrialized countries because of the COVID-19 control measures, many people have had to transition very rapidly to working remotely. Well, if you had a disability and you already working remotely,

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** actually, this transition may not have been such a huge challenge for you. Right. I have had conversations with other disabled colleagues who have pointed this out to me that's OK for you actually for them you know having to do everything online and do all these meetings online wasn't a huge transition for them. This is already how they were doing things. And so, I think that we need to think about again what are the ways in which disabled people can contribute ideas, can contribute perspectives that are useful to building a climate resilient and low carbon world.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** And when we do this, we can also think about how these kinds of solutions and these innovations can benefit a broader range of people in society. So, if I returned to my mass transit system example, of course making those accessible will be important for ensuring that persons with physical mobility impairments can use them, but also they benefit a wide range of users. So this is sometimes referred to as what's called the curb cut phenomenon, which is refers to the efforts of these disability activists in Berkeley in the 70s where they were basically making their own curb cuts in the sidewalk.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** And as it turns out when you make these curb cuts and sidewalks, it's obviously in for wheelchair users to go onto the sidewalk, but it turns out that many people benefit from curb cuts. And I think as we as we move forward in trying to take our place in this climate movement, I think we need to refer to ourselves not just you know not just as obviously recognizing that we are more vulnerable to climate change, but also that we can contribute a lot of ideas and perspectives to the table and also ensure that we have policies that respect and protect our rights and that that will actually benefit society as a whole.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** And then last thing I want to say is that while it's true that the climate movement I don't think has it has done much of anything really to reach out of the disability community. It's often said well the disability community is new to climate change or climate change is a new issue to disability for the disability community. And this is true in one way, but in another way, I would also argue that many disabled activists are already climate activists.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** They just don't know it yet. Right. So, if you are actively working on disaster risk readiness in a in an area or sector where though where those risks disasters are increased by climate change, well you are already working on climate adaptation and at least a subset of it. And if you are fighting for your right to be able to work remotely or fighting for your right to be able to access mass transit then you're already contributing to a transition to a low carbon society. So we want to we want to work with the disability community and people in the climate movement to build these bridges and we believe that as societies around the world confront, and are affected by the climate crisis, they should do so in collaboration with disabled persons and help co-produce a safe climate and an inclusive future for everyone.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** Thank you

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very, very much.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Sébastien and well it's time it's time to close this first round of speakers and we are going to ask a Mrs. Elham Youssefian to please speak to us to give the concluding

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**Yolanda Munoz:** remarks. Elham Youssefian is the inclusive humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction advisor in the International Disability Alliance Secretariat. Mrs. Youssefian is responsible for leading and coordinating the implementation of IDA’s strategy to promote and support the effective enforcement of inclusive humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction. She is currently leading the IDA and the International Disability and Development Consortium's joint advocacy and global campaign initiatives to address discrimination and exclusion of persons with disabilities

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**Yolanda Munoz:** in COVID-19 response and recovery. Together with representatives from UNICEF and CBM global, Mrs. Youssefian is co-chairing the IASC reference group on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Her education is in the fields of international law and human

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**Yolanda Munoz:** rights law. She also has diverse experience in protection and human rights with a focus on issues related to human trafficking, refugees, domestic violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities. Mrs. Youssefian will give you the concluding remarks as I mentioned before for this panel and I give you the floor now.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very much.

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**Elham Youssefian:** Thank you so much Yolanda. It's both difficult and so exciting to speak and provide closing remarks. It's interesting and exciting because I have the opportunity to summarize and try to see together what comes next and is of course difficult because everybody has provided such

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**Elham Youssefian:** insightful, great speeches. So, I will try to keep it brief so that we can use the time for hearing from the audience and sharing more and hearing more from our panel. The questions that I'm sure there are a lot of questions. I want to start by agreeing with Sébastien that yeah as a person of disability, as a woman with disability, I am a knower, maker and doer in climate action.

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**Elham Youssefian:** And now that we heard from him, I'm just conscious of what I have been doing in terms of addressing climate action, climate change from disability perspective. And just one example that just popped into my head was that as a blind person, I hardly use papers, right? So, I think we are kind of going green and I am very hardly use paper. So, we are also making this contribution. So, I think what we need to do as organizations of persons with disabilities and international disability alliance has the honour to be a representative global organization, consisting of eight global and six regional organizations of persons with disabilities, and being governed by persons with disabilities actually.

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**Elham Youssefian:** So, I think that as organizations of persons with disabilities, the first system that we need to take is to recognize both the vulnerability that we are experiencing and also the role that we can play, and we should play, in climate action. We need to work together and also work with an NGO. There are a lot of NGOs working in climate action which I think building a kind of partnership between those NGOs, those civil society movements and disability rights movement, would create a big difference in making sure that the climate action is disability inclusive.

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**Elham Youssefian:** And this is a two way actually, action, I think. So, we need to take steps toward civil society and the climate movement. And hopefully,

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**Elham Youssefian:** hopefully we would see them also take steps toward making their work more disability inclusive. So, I really hope that if we have today with us

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**Elham Youssefian:** civil society activists from the climate movement, they would consider making their work more disability inclusive not because of people with disabilities are vulnerable we should include them, but also because we are 15 or maybe 20 percent of the population and we can have a kind of active role. And as Sébastien I think shared because of our experience and dealing with the world full of different kinds of barriers, we have learned, and we have developed lots of great coping mechanisms that can help a lot to find innovative, less costly solutions to address

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**Elham Youssefian:** global crises like climate change. So, the next steps are quite exciting. We have come together to shape the Disability Inclusive

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**Elham Youssefian:** Climate Action advisory panel. We have extended the work of the Stakeholders Thematic Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to include climate action. So now we are. We have recognized the interconnection between disaster risk reduction and climate action

01:18:06:07 - 01:18:39:11

**Elham Youssefian:** and we have kind of combined these two so now we have this group on disaster disability inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate action. We have started we heard about the research that is being done by the Pacific Disability Forum and also by the McGill University team. So research is being done and there is a lot of opportunities for more research. So, we need to collect evidence about the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities

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**Elham Youssefian:** with taking into consideration the impact on underrepresented groups, which in addition to women, indigenous people, minorities, would also include the deaf people, people with deaf blindness, persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

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**Elham Youssefian:** In addition to the research work, we are doing quite a bit of advocacy and we really hope that we can see in the near future creation of a disability constituency within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. So, this would be a great platform like the platform that Indigenous people have been have to contribute voices and views of persons with disabilities in the United Nations Climate Change Platform.

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**Elham Youssefian:** So let's hope that we will soon come together to celebrate. Having that constituency. I want to wrap up by coming back to what I think Marcie started in her opening remarks. We have this famous sentence that we say “nothing about us without us.” We have to be realistic. Unfortunately, the global action to address climate change has started without persons with disabilities being included.

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**Elham Youssefian:** But let's make sure and work together to ensure that this does not continue without us, because it's gonna be about us. So let's make sure that it's not going to be continued without us. Thank you.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very, very much Elham, I think that your last remark is quite important. We have to make sure that these will not continue without us.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** And I would like to continue with the questions. We received a lot of very interesting questions during their registration process and I am choosing a first one that is related to Elham’s last remark, that is why did it take so long for the climate movement to come to terms with

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**Yolanda Munoz:** this important issue? Why are we are arriving so late to this dialogue? Who would like to

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**Yolanda Munoz:** take that question?

01:21:07:16 - 01:21:15:27

**Carlos Kaiser:** I would like to. [Okay Carlos] The problem is that we are always reacting late

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**Carlos Kaiser:** especially when we are talking about disabilities.

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**Carlos Kaiser:** We have been even facing the institutions saying things like this. I want to tell you that eight years ago I remember with someone from our U.N. based institution told me let's work with older people first and then we can go with you. What this person was saying? that there were two kinds of people: people with disabilities that were not important and the rest that was numerically more important. We are reacting too late.

01:21:52:03 - 01:22:23:18

**Carlos Kaiser:** We have a reactive culture. You know that we need a disaster to happen, for having laws. We pass the law after a disaster, never preventing. We are just not preventing climate change. We are not making justice for people with disabilities, at the same time of the risk. We start convincing the traditional groups that we are needed. That's why I believe that initiative is great, but the problem is that they are not thinking about us as part of society.

01:22:23:20 - 01:22:36:00

**Carlos Kaiser:** We are not part of many things. So that's why we are not really having us here. That's why we are kind of late, but we are not out. That's what I want to say.

01:22:36:02 - 01:22:59:03

**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very much Carlos. I don't know if Pratima said that, I would like to elaborate a little more on what happens, why an organizations of people with disabilities are not including climate action and environmental justice in their agenda.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Thus far.

01:23:00:22 - 01:23:17:02

**Stefan Trömel:** Yolanda, this is Stefan, can I come in? [Yeah sure] Well first I would say that we are far from being there. I mean I wouldn't say that right now the climate movement is has added just a bit inclusion to the to the issue.

01:23:17:04 - 01:23:47:11

**Stefan Trömel:** What what is starting with this meeting and and what's happened last year is that if a few key players from the disability movement have started to put climate change on their agenda and on. And I think that's an important step. I mean when thinking a bit about the strategy to to infiltrate the climate change discussions with disability, I was looking at the agenda, also the agenda was not there at the very beginning it took it was like halfway through.

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**Stefan Trömel:** I mean the climate change discussions have been going on for more than 25 years, no? Starting with Kyoto and all that. Gender is also, was not there from the beginning of gender considerations. So, I'm not too surprised. But I think we also have to blame a bit ourselves. I mean we have not put climate change on our own our own agendas as disability organisations or disability champions, because for a number of reasons we have many other issues to deal with. So, I think, if we think that an issue like climate change, and the same happened with disaster risk reduction, if we would have expected the mainstream people working on that to reach out to the disability communities, it's just not the way things work.

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**Stefan Trömel:** We need to be the ones push, knocking at the door pushing the door, kicking the door and then things will start to happen. It's very important also what Elham said. It's definitely about reaching out and being seen as partners to these to these organisations not looking for just come to us.

01:24:54:23 - 01:24:56:01

**Yolanda Munoz:** Yeah. Thank you very much Stefan.

01:24:56:14 - 01:25:28:07

**Yolanda Munoz:** I will also ask the other panelists if you can please turn on your cameras when you speak so that the participants know who is in the conversation. And well I mean now that I mean also discussing this discussing this, I think that what I have heard thus far too is that the many priorities that that we have

01:25:28:17 - 01:25:35:06

**Yolanda Munoz:** like poverty reduction and inequalities, etc.

01:25:35:17 - 01:25:52:07

**Yolanda Munoz:** Has also prevented us from improving our knowledge and seeing the relationship between climate action and environmental justice and these central problems in our agenda for disability rights.

01:25:53:01 - 01:26:02:07

**Yolanda Munoz:** And now that we are here with Stefan, many- one of the questions is related to employment and it says:

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**Yolanda Munoz:** do you think that with this change that is occurring currently, and is a change to a greener economy, people with disabilities will have more opportunities through the development of new skills?

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**Stefan Trömel:** I think this will not happen automatically. Again, I think there is a there is a move to new jobs in different contexts also in, and climate change definitely is an employment generator.

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**Stefan Trömel:** And it will require people to either reskill some of the people that have old jobs or it just it's just new jobs for new people for young people. And I think what our challenge is, is to make sure that some of those jobs and possibly a significant number of those jobs go to people which of course will require a number of issues and in particular would require that when governments start investing in programs that will generate a pool of people that have the skills that are needed for these jobs, disability inclusion needs to be a part of that.

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**Stefan Trömel:** These changes need to be policy and there needs to be a positive outreach to participants to be part of these programs. And of course, there's a role for disability organisations to request to be sitting at the table that we'll be discussing this year. And I think that that's an overarching request that we need to make. We need to be sitting at all of the tables the rates of climate change including also the tables that we'll be discussing the new jobs that will be coming with this change.

01:27:59:24 - 01:28:33:26

**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very much. Stefan. And we also have some questions for Pratima and Setareki regarding the intersections. I mean how because indigenous peoples have been very proactive in this quest to be included in the dialogue on climate action and environmental justice and you in your capacity as a founders and a

01:28:36:06 - 01:29:30:12

**Yolanda Munoz:** authorities within the Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities Global Network have had the opportunity to take the microphone and also speak in international events and on behalf of people indigenous peoples with disabilities. So, there are many questions that are related to what are the opportunities that you perceive as indigenous peoples with disabilities to have even more impact in our participation in the dialogue towards climate justice and climate action. And so, Pratima do you want to talk about that? Just open your microphone.

01:29:35:00 - 01:30:06:03

**Pratima Gurung:** Thank you Yolanda for your question. So I'll just highlight about the work that we have been doing since 2013 and the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network was been formed with the support of the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund and one of the achievements that I would like to highlight is about the cross movement collaboration and being indigenous people and also being a woman with disabilities, or is a person with disabilities or is a woman.

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**Pratima Gurung:** So what we have done so far at the local level and also resident level and at the global level is we have been doing a cross movement collaboration within different constituencies. So when it comes to the issue of persons with disabilities we have been negotiating in the global indigenous peoples movement and also the women's movement about the issue of disability. So, this has enabled us to build a network and also it has allowed us to know the challenges and also the problems that we are facing as indigenous persons with disabilities,

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**Pratima Gurung:** and it has also equally highlighted and also enabled us not only to bring the issues and the challenges that we have faced no matter at the ground or at the global level but also to enabled us to build a synergy and a space to tell and inform that we are not only a challenge but also our solution to all these problems that we are facing, no matter if it is a pandemic or different kind of situation.

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**Pratima Gurung:** So for me I see that even the climate negotiation that is happening that will be happening and that is happening at the global level and also at the national level will also enable us to have our own distinct identity as a person with disabilities or as indigenous people or as a woman and that will also enable us to equally work collectively by building our synergy and the knowledge that we have at the local level, and that local level knowledge will ultimately help to link at the global level and do our advocacy and activism in this climate change negotiation.

01:32:02:07 - 01:32:23:18

**Pratima Gurung:** This is what I would say the first thing. The second thing that I wanted to highlight is for us as indigenous women with disabilities from a very community level, I see that there are many evidences there are many events and there are many stories and narratives those have not been heard and they are yet to be heard and documented. So, for us,

01:32:24:04 - 01:33:08:20

**Pratima Gurung:** this collaboration and these achievements and these avenues are the process to bring those unheard stories and narratives from the ground and to frame the whole global discourse of climate and environmental justice from a disability, from a gender, and from an Indigenous perspective. So, it is also bringing out those narratives in the form of documentations and also trying to show and also prove the word that we can equally contribute to the ideas and to the ground realities no matter from where we are.

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**Pratima Gurung:** So, it's about learning each other and also trying to contribute each other from the experiences and the challenges and the solutions that we have. So, I see these two things as a very important and crucial aspect. But there are still other perspectives that we see as avenues and we see as an achievement that we can collectively do to highlight the issue of persons with disabilities and also trying to make disability inclusion climate change the discussion. This is what I would say. Thank you.

01:33:46:06 - 01:34:16:24

**Yolanda Munoz:** Well thanks to you. I don't know if someone else wishes to talk about more the intersections. I mean the diversity within the disability community and our chances to improve our participation, the quality of our participation in the dialogue. No? Okay, so moving forward.

01:34:23:10 - 01:35:10:13

**Yolanda Munoz:** Mr. Macanawai, sorry. You mentioned a very important point that is the lack of fresh water supplies, how this is affecting people with disabilities throughout the world disproportionately because we have less opportunities to go and look for drinking water when it's further and further, the problem is terrible and I would like to ask how to make this a priority in terms of research and advocacy.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** Yes. In the Pacific the reference made to sea water inundation particularly with low lying atolls, where this storm surges the high level, the rising sea level, entering freshwater supplies drinking water or saline intrusion that I referred to. It will affect safe drinking water for people including people disabilities in those particular areas and not just to drinking water but even livelihoods. It will affect their source of livelihood, if they are planting, agriculture.

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**Setareki Macanawai:** So, we are here in the Pacific because of that, the outcome of climate change, with rising sea level and, in respect to us even more. This century, it does pose a lot of a problem challenges to a low-lying atolls in the Pacific and other parts of the world where they exist. It will affect their drinking water. It will affect also their livelihoods in terms of food security and then (to put those trying to make there) because it affects all persons including few disabilities in those particular communities.

01:37:17:11 - 01:38:01:06

**Yolanda Munoz:** OK. Thank you very much. Well I would like to move to another question and maybe later we will have to start wrapping up because we're running out of time. Well there is another question that maybe Sébastien can, Professor Jodoin can help us with this one. It is that there is a systemic understanding that the global catastrophe...

01:38:02:03 - 01:38:33:14

**Yolanda Munoz:** I mean that, I'm sorry I was wrong in the comments. While activists focus on climate change most immediately better incorporate the disability rights lens, disability rights activists need to immediately incorporate a climate justice analysis into their work given the incredible rights violations that climate change is already causing and will only exacerbate in the future. I'm reading a question that was sent by the audience.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** All human rights organizations now fully face inevitable catastrophic future trends, some rapid, some slow that will severely deepen inequality and suffering and human rights organizations of all kinds must be at the forefront in being prepared through deep collaboration with each other in getting the rights concerned forward and part of the response solution. So, from a human rights perspective, what are the opportunities that we have moving forward that works, towards really addressing the rights of people with disabilities towards this end.

01:39:14:19 - 01:40:25:24

**Sébastien Jodoin:** Well I think that's a big question that maybe everyone could contribute to. Maybe I'll just say I think that I can think of two, if I can think of it in this way. I think at the multilateral level I think we need to work on having a constituency established with the disability community. And then I think the second thing that we will need as well is, and here I'm just drawing on the examples of the models set for gender and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC. But, in the multilateral climate regime we have something called the Gender Action Plan which is about ensuring that states comprehensively consider and address gender in their climate policies and actions. We have another mechanism for recognizing and respecting the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples. So, I think we need a disability inclusive climate action plan of our own in the UNFCCC that would ensure that states are obliged to do this and share best practices. So that's important.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** I think domestically we need states to start taking a disability-inclusive approach. In the COVID-19 pandemic, a hundred and thirty states signed on to a statement saying that they were going to have a disability-inclusive pandemic response. Now I know there are lots of shortfalls and whether the fact that they have done this or not, but I will just say for Canada for instance, they set up an advisory panel comprised of persons with disabilities to advise them on policies relating to the pandemic, but in the field of climate change there is absolutely nothing in Canada domestically.

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**Sébastien Jodoin:** So, we need, I think DPOs at the domestic level to start advocating on this issue and pushing countries to implement disability inclusive policies and institutional responses. So that would be sort of two priority areas that I would think that we should start working on.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** I agree with you. Marcie, would you like to add something?

01:41:25:26 - 01:44:53:23

**Marcie Roth:** Sure. This is Marcie speaking. I think a couple of things come to mind. First and foremost as we are grappling with the increases in extreme weather and climate driven disasters, we can see this also as an opportunity to build back better, and if we use these opportunities that follow disasters we may be able to incorporate the universal design standards and the features that make the whole community more accessible, and these are very frequently these universal design features are not only good for making the community more accessible but also to support a green environment. So, you know, if we can jointly commit to spending the funds that might be invested after disasters in a way that supports this sort of inclusive whole community design, I think that's going to be one key moving forward. And for those of us who have invested heavily in the implementation of the convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, you know the very same principles are embedded in the Convention as can be found in the issues that are fundamental to climate justice, environmental justice, and so I think you know, we're not talking different languages. We're not talking different priorities, we're really very much all working towards the same goals, and if the rights of people with disabilities are embedded in the work that we're doing and people have access to full participation, physical access to, you know all of the environments in the community, equally effective communication access so that everyone gets the same information and has the opportunity to be fully participating, I think these will all go very far towards using the rights based approaches to bring everybody to the table and making that table an accessible table for all.

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**Yolanda Munoz:** Yeah, thank you very much. And I have a last question and then we are going to go to a very, very quick a wrap-up session and I think that this is a very interesting question. It says "Do you have any tips for activists with mental illnesseses-" I am not changing the phrasing of the of the way the question was made. "Do you have any tips for activists with psychosocial disabilities to be able to advocate not only for climate change but for everyone in the disabled community? I struggle a lot with burnout and being overwhelmed, so having a few specific tips, places to direct my attention would be much appreciated."

01:45:44:27 - 01:46:19:04

**Yolanda Munoz:** And I think that it's very important because I think that climate change brings a lot of emotional charge on many people and it is certainly, the landscape doesn't look very promising in many senses. So how to, how to deal also with this specific issue. If someone wishes to address it. Marcie?

01:46:23:10 - 01:48:18:25

**Marcie Roth:** This is Marcie speaking again. And, I think it is within the work of the disability community, we are always building capacity for a more inclusive approach within the work that we're doing. And so, the inclusion of people with a variety of disabilities isn't- it isn't simply just including people, it's giving people a real pathway towards acquiring the skills and the opportunities to build their leadership and then to become full participants. So, whatever work it is that we're doing we need to be always centering ourselves on the folks within the disability community who are marginalized even within the work that we do. So in our climate work, we need to be sure that everyone has an opportunity to learn the information that they need in order to become full participants, and then we need to make sure that we're making room so that everyone can have those opportunities to lead and help us to build that capacity for the whole community.

01:48:19:13 - 01:49:01:21

**Yolanda Munoz:** Okay. Thank you very much Marcie, so we only have 7 minutes left and I would like to know if- I mean I would like to ask our speakers to please close with some key takeaways and I would like to ask you to please provide the audience with some words on the importance of building strong arguments to bring together disability rights and climate action. You have one minute each. Who wants to start? Marcie?

01:49:01:23 - 01:49:58:05

**Marcie Roth:** This is Marcie. Very simply, if we continue to work in our silos, we're going to miss the opportunity to build stronger. And disability is not something for a few people. Disability is a natural part of life and, we are the greatest minority on the planet, and we are a minority that anyone can become a member of at any time. So, making our communities accessible is something that is not just good for a small number of the population, it is really imperative for the whole community.

01:49:58:07 - 01:50:10:19

**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very much. Pratima, would you like to follow up? It's your 3 a.m. in the morning, right? I am so sorry to keep you here, but you are so important in this conversation.

01:50:10:21 - 01:52:09:28

**Pratima Gurung:** Thank you. I would just say only some few words. For me what I see is collective climate action is required for us as a person with disabilities. We know that we have many challenges and we have many different situations right now. No matter, it is a climate justice discussion or the COVID pandemic. But what I would say from an indigenous perspective and from an indigenous lens is, we have been contributing to this Mother Earth since historical time and we know that the whole global world is going through all these challenges but with these challenges we do have also the solution to these challenges. So, to bring these solutions and challenges, what I see is we have to be inclusive, and inclusion of persons with disabilities can now be a part of this discussion. So our collective effort is one of the primary and crucial things that I would like to highlight and that has to come from top to down approach in some circumstances when it comes to the global discussion, but at the same time the approach has to also lead from the down to top approach because it brings the evidences, and for me what I would say is even a small matter and even a small evidence matters a lot. And for us the support that the Greengrant Climate Fund (Global Greengrants Fund) has provided it is a small fund, but with this small fund, so we are able to bring ample of evidences and also the impact of the climate change that is related with Indigenous people and persons with disabilities on the ground which is very much closer to this kind of discussion. So let's try to work on this kind of issues that will enable persons with disabilities and also other communities and also be inclusive to rest of the world and also the society that we represent. Thank you.

01:52:10:08 - 01:52:19:15

**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very much. Oh Stefan, I don't know if you wish to to give your some words.

01:52:19:17 - 01:53:24:09

**Stefan Trömel:** Yes, thank you Yolanda. Very much action oriented. I think this was mentioned by Sébastien and also mentioned by some colleagues in the chat. I think it's very important to establish a disability constituency that will take part in the global climate change discussions. No doubt other civil society groups indigenous and other, we need to have one on disability. We have a previous experience Yolanda you witness it, Setareki, Pratima, Diana, someone else who was on the call, you did something like that with the indigenous permanent forum, indigenous caucus, we need to do the same. We need a group of people with disabilities to be taking part in every yearly discussion and that requires a bit of funding, and I think there are some funders on the call who could support that. And having a group of people with disabilities taking part in discussion, we also facilitate the request that we have to make to the secretariat of the UNFCCC to make future meetings of COP fully accessible and inclusive as I said before that in itself will raise attention to just a bit inclusion.

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**Stefan Trömel:** I would also suggest that it would make sense in the run up of that to create an atmosphere for that, we should also think about doing a webinar like this but not just with the disability champions like today but really with people that are part of these negotiations. People from the Secretariat of the UNFCCC to start making them aware of the disability angle of these issues and try to sort of plant the seeds for these requests. Thank you.

01:53:54:05 - 01:54:03:09

**Yolanda Munoz:** No, thank you very much for this great contribution. And Sébastien, would you like to provide some insights?

01:54:03:19 - 01:55:26:00

**Sébastien Jodoin:** I'll just say something very quickly which is that I have personally benefited from previous generations of the disability community being activists for the recognition of the rights but it was the CRPD. So you know, as someone who acquired disability five years ago I wasn't, and of course I have the privilege of being white and male, but you know I wasn't fired, right? From my job, I negotiated reasonable accommodation. Something that I think ten years ago and 15 years ago there were situations where people were fired for developing MS and they are still fired around the world so I just want to say I am sort of constantly have been impressed by what our community has achieved, by what, and you know, disabled people achieve every day. And being activists for their rights, and I and I can't wait for us as a group to catalyze and help empower that community that are these awesome activists to bring them into the climate movement and start activating you know and bring those energies and that and that spirit to the task of climate justice. So that's what I'm excited about and hope to work with everyone on that. Thank you.

01:55:26:13 - 01:55:38:18

**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very much. Maybe we can continue with, we only have I think Carlos, Setareki, and Elham.

01:55:38:21 - 01:56:51:12

**Setareki Macanawai:** Yolanda, let me just very quickly say these two things. These two climate change effects that I read. One is the Earth's surface will rise between 1.1 and 2.9 this century. For us in the Pacific it means a sea level rise of between 25 centimeters and 58 centimeters is projected by the mid of the century affecting Pacific Island countries coastlines. Now with these two facts on climate change and its impact on people, including people with disabilities, we especially with disabilities we cannot afford to continue to be left behind. We have come probably late to this discussion, but we cannot afford to remain excluded. We must engage and thank the organizers for this opportunity, and we look forward to further opportunity for us to come together, get up our efforts to engage in this process. Thank you.

01:56:51:21 - 01:57:03:25

**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very much to you Setareki. And Carlos, would you like to- very brief because we are already a little bit late.

01:57:03:27 - 01:57:36:00

**Carlos Kaiser:** I have to say that the problem when the rest of society choose to ignore us, is that they are also chooses to ignore the truth. All evidence shows that we are here. All evidence shows that we are not something invented, we are not imaginary people, but they have continued to ignore us. Science is not going to be science. Numbers are not going to be trusted. So, we need inclusion in order to have environmental justice. That's it.

01:57:36:12 - 01:57:49:07

**Yolanda Munoz:** Thank you very much. Elham, would you like to close this discussion with some words of hope and moving forward? Elham? I don't hear her.

01:57:59:17 - 01:58:05:09

**Sébastien Jodoin:** I think you lost her Yolanda. So, you'll have to close the event.

01:58:05:11 - 01:59:21:24

**Yolanda Munoz:** Okay so I will have- Okay so I will close with this and thank you everyone for coming here today and we are really very happy to start our activities as scholars and as activists with this special event. We hope that you join us and that you follow our activities, at the Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme at the McGill University. I want to thank all the students also that were so engaged and that helped us so much with the organization of this event and with all the persons with disabilities who sent all these amazing questions. We are going to take them all into consideration as a point of departure for further debate in the actions to come, and a thank you once again for joining us today. Remember that the transcript and the video will be made available shortly so please stay in touch, stay tuned and we hope that you are as excited as us to keep on talking about the relationship between climate action and disability rights. So, thank you very much everyone.