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DISABILITY RIGHTS IN NATIONAL CLIMATE POLICIES

Status Report
June 2022

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About the Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program

Based at the McGill Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism, the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Program (DICARP) works with disability and climate activists and experts from around the world to generate, co-produce, share, and translate knowledge on how efforts to combat climate change can be designed and implemented in ways that respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of disabled persons.

<https://www.disabilityinclusiveclimate.org>

About the International Disability Alliance

The International Disability Alliance brings together over 1,100 organisations of persons with disabilities and their families from across eight global and six regional networks. Together we promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities across global efforts to advance human rights and sustainable development. We support organisations of persons with disabilities to hold their governments to account and advocate for change locally, nationally and internationally.

<https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org>

Introduction

This report provides a systematic analysis of the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their rights in the climate commitments and policies adopted by State Parties to the *Paris Agreement* adopted under the aegis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Section 1 reiterates the key obligations owed by states to persons with disabilities under international law. Section 2 reviews whether and how States have recognized persons with disabilities and their rights in their communications to the UNFCCC and in their domestic climate adaptation and mitigation policies. Section 3 summarizes the key conclusions of our analysis and provide recommendations for enhancing disability inclusion in national climate policy-making. In the appendix to this report, we provide a compendium of references to disability from our dataset of domestic climate policies.

1. The Disability Rights Obligations of States in the Context of Climate Change

Under international human rights law, governments have clear obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of their efforts to respond to climate change. The preamble to the Paris Agreement affirms that “Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights,” including the rights of persons with disabilities. The United Nations Human Rights Council, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have each specifically recognized the disproportionate impacts of climate change for people with disabilities and called on States to adopt disability-inclusive human rights-based approaches to combatting climate change.

In particular, State parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) are obliged to:

- (1) assess and take into account the differential impacts of climate change on the rights of persons with disabilities through an intersectional approach;
 - (2) develop and implement evidence-based climate mitigation and adaptation policies to prevent and minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities;
 - (3) provide accessible information on climate change to persons with disabilities, strengthen their capacity to participate in climate decision-making that concerns them, and ensure that they have access to judicial or administrative proceedings and effective remedies when they suffer harm from climate action and inaction;
- and

(4) support international efforts to combat climate change and enhance the climate resilience of persons with disabilities in developing countries.

2. Analysis of Disability Inclusion in National Climate Commitments and Policies

Nationally Determined Contributions submitted to the UNFCCC

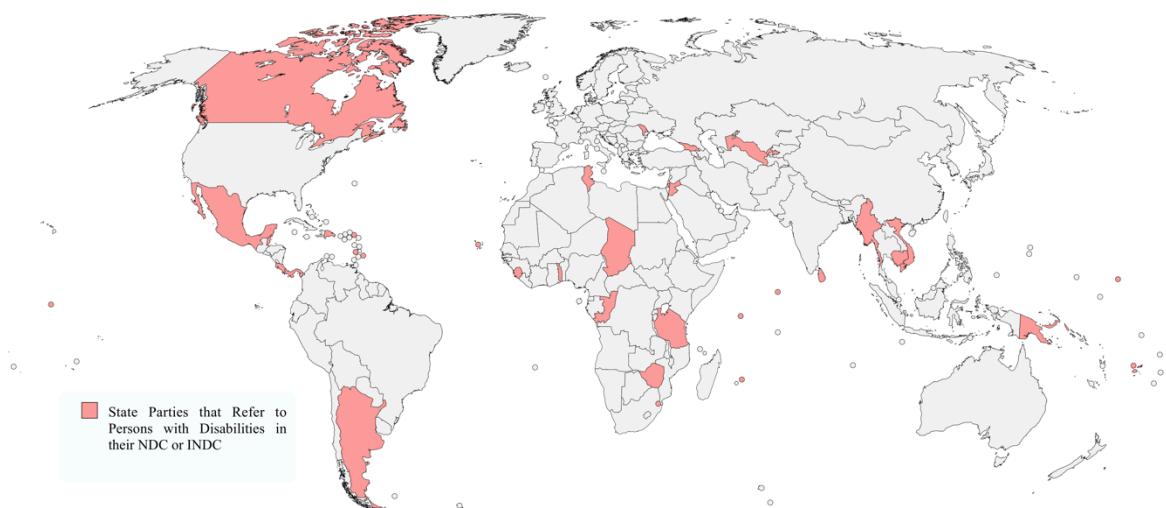
Under the 2015 *Paris Agreement*, countries were called to outline the post-2020 climate actions they intended to take in the form of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). As countries formally join the Paris Agreement, these commitments are converted to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – efforts that each country will take to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. NDCs are to be submitted by State Parties every five years, with each successive NDC representing a progression in ambition compared to the previous NDC.

Our systematic analysis reveals that only 35 of 192 State Parties to the *Paris Agreement* currently refer to persons with disabilities in their NDC (or INDC, if no updated NDC has been provided). For two other State Parties (Ethiopia and Uganda), references to persons with disabilities that were included in each country’s INDC were subsequently removed in their updated NDCs, representing a step backwards with respect to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their climate policies.

List of State Parties to the <i>Paris Agreement</i> that Refer to Persons with Disabilities in their NDC or INDC		
Antigua and Barbuda	Fiji	Saint Lucia
Argentina	Georgia	Seychelles
Barbados	Jordan	Sierra Leone
Belize	Kiribati	Sri Lanka
Cabo Verde	Maldives	State of Palestine
Cambodia	Marshall Islands	Tanzania
Canada	Mauritius	Togo
Chad	Mexico	Tunisia
Republic of the Congo	Moldova	Uzbekistan
Costa Rica	Myanmar	Vietnam
Dominican Republic	Panama	Zimbabwe
Eswatini	Papua New Guinea	

Many of the references to disability in countries' INDCs and NDCs are relatively broad in nature. For example, a number of countries note the heightened vulnerability of disabled people to climate change impacts or identify disabled people as a segment of the population requiring specific adaptation measures. Other references to disability include more concrete, specific measures to be taken by State Parties. For example, several countries note the need for disaggregated data collection concerning the impacts of climate change and disasters on marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities. Other countries propose the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the transition to a green economy (see, for example, Canada and Jordan).

Overall, our analysis of NDCs demonstrates that states are neglecting their obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities in their responses to the climate crisis.



Climate mitigation policies

Our systematic analysis of climate mitigation policies reveals that no State Parties to the *Paris Agreement* currently refer to people with disabilities in their framework climate mitigation policies. The failure to include persons with disabilities in climate mitigation actions may lead to outcomes that are inconsistent with rights of persons with disabilities. For example, while the development of sustainable transport systems is seen as a key component of the transition to greener societies, these systems are often inaccessible to persons with physical and visual impairments. Moreover, the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the planning, implementation, and monitoring of mitigation measures also means that the potential contributions of the disability community to reducing carbon emissions remain unrealized.

Climate adaptation policies

Our systematic analysis of climate adaptation policies reveals that only 45 State Parties to the *Paris Agreement* currently refer to people with disabilities, people with health conditions or those with chronic illnesses in their climate adaptation policies.

List of State Parties that Refer to People with Disabilities or People with Health Conditions or Chronic Illnesses in their Climate Adaptation Policies	
Austria	Moldova
Central African Republic	Namibia
Chile	Nauru
Cook Islands	Panama
Czechia	Poland
Ecuador	Saint Lucia
Egypt	Slovakia
Estonia	Slovenia
Finland	Solomon Islands
Germany	South Africa
Ghana	South Korea
Greece	Spain
Guatemala	Sudan
Hungary	Tajikistan
Ireland	Thailand
Kenya	Togo
Kiribati	Tonga
Latvia	Turkey
Liechtenstein	Uganda
Luxembourg	Uruguay
Malawi	Zambia
Marshall Islands	Zimbabwe
Mexico	

Most references to disability and people with health conditions or chronic illness in States' climate adaptation policies are cursory in nature. In many policies, persons with disabilities are listed amongst other groups especially vulnerable to climate change impacts, but without further detail as to the measures that should be taken to ensure the inclusivity of adaptation measures. There are certain exceptions. For example, Zimbabwe's National Climate Policy identifies specific ways in which persons

with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses have been excluded from development initiatives and decision-making. It also identifies the need to build adaptive capacity in vulnerable groups; to mainstream these groups in all climate change responses; and to ensure equitable access to and ownership of resources for climate change adaptation by vulnerable groups. Zimbabwe’s National Adaptation Plan also includes specific obligations with respect to disabled people and other vulnerable groups, such as the promotion of user-friendly, climate smart technologies, and support for the development and dissemination of simplified meteorological and agrometeorological information.



For persons with disabilities, their exclusion from climate adaptation planning can be a matter of life and death. The impacts of climate change disproportionately impact disabled people and undermine their rights, including the rights to food and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, health-care services and medicines, education and training, adequate housing and access to decent work. For example, in emergencies involving environmental hazards, persons with disabilities are often among those most adversely affected, with disproportionately high rates of morbidity and mortality, and are amongst those least able to access emergency support.

The greater vulnerability of persons with disabilities to the impacts of climate change is due in large part to disabling environments, policies, and cultures, including the added vulnerabilities that accompany poverty, the inaccessibility of information about risk and hazard, and discriminatory attitudes towards disabled people. The challenges faced by persons with disabilities are further exacerbated when they also belong to another vulnerable group. As a result of these factors, persons with disabilities are neglected in the development of policies and programs for climate

adaptation and face barriers in receiving services and information in a timely manner and accessible format.

3. Conclusion: Key Findings & Recommendations for Moving Forward

A disability rights approach to climate governance stresses the importance of recognizing and protecting the substantive and procedural rights held by persons with disabilities in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of climate policies and programs. Such an approach also obliges States to adopt climate adaptation policies that can protect persons with disabilities from harm in climate-related emergencies and enhance their resilience to climate impacts. These obligations flow from the general obligations included in the UNCRPD to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities in a context in which they are threatened by the impacts of climate change.

Unfortunately, States are falling far short of their obligations in this regard. A minority of State Parties to the *Paris Agreement* include persons with disabilities in their NDCs and climate adaptation policies. In cases where disability has been included, it is largely to indicate the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate change impacts or to signal the need for their inclusion, without providing concrete measures to enhance their resilience and adaptive capacity. Moreover, there are no references to disability in any State Party's climate mitigation policy.

The exclusion of people with disabilities from most domestic climate policies is especially troubling given the evidence that they are disproportionately affected by climate impacts and are often adversely affected by measures adopted to reduce carbon emissions. The on-going failure of most States to take affirmative measures to prevent the harms caused by climate change and to effectively consider their rights and perspectives in the design of climate policies constitute clear breaches of their obligations under the UNCRPD and international human rights law.

Considering these findings, States should adopt the following measures to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected, respected and fulfilled in the context of the climate crisis:

1. Adopt and implement ambitious measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a manner compatible with maintaining the global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels in order to limit the detrimental impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities;
2. Ensure the meaningful, informed, and effective participation of persons with disabilities in climate policy-making and decision-making processes;

3. Ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are respected, protected, and fulfilled in the design, development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all climate policies;
4. Adopt and implement disability-inclusive climate change adaptation policies that enhance the resilience of persons with disabilities to different climate impacts;
5. Adopt and implement disability-inclusive climate change mitigation policies that enable persons with disabilities to contribute to, and benefit from, efforts to decarbonize societies;
6. Adopt an intersectional perspective towards disability-inclusive climate action that recognizes and addresses the multiple barriers faced by women with disabilities, children, Indigenous peoples, racialized individuals, and older adults; persons with disabilities living in poverty; and underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, such as persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities or persons with deaf blindness;
7. Adopt a disability-inclusive approach to international cooperation in the field of climate change;
8. Support measures to ensure the meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities and their human rights under the UNFCCC, including in the context of climate-related education, capacity-building, training, and public participation and through a comprehensive set of measures to ensure that States adopt disability-inclusive solutions to the climate crisis.

List of References

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Sébastien Jodoin, Nilani Ananthamoorthy & Katherine Lofts, "A Disability Rights Approach to Climate Governance" (2020) 47(1) Ecology Law Quarterly 73-116:

<https://lawcat.berkeley.edu/record/1188716?ln=en>

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Analytical Study on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Context of Climate Change (2020):

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G20/097/56/PDF/G2009756.pdf?OpenElement>

Additional references on disability and climate change can be found here:

<https://www.disabilityinclusiveclimate.org/resources>

Annex 1 – Compendium of References to Disability in National Climate Commitments & Policies

These policies were compiled in the summer of 2021 by drawing on the communications of state parties submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat. Anyone with suggestions of errors, omissions, or updates is encouraged to write to:

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1. References to Disability in Nationally Determined Contributions

State	Document & Date	References to Disability
Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua and Barbuda's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021.	<p>This NDC will cover the period 2020 to 2030 and it includes targets for mitigation and adaptation as well as targets that are designed to [...] support vulnerable groups, including women, the elderly and people living with disabilities" (p. 11)</p> <p>"Antigua and Barbuda is also committed to ensuring that ACE becomes, as per Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, a key cross-cutting instrument to involve all levels of society in climate action, in particular children and youth (as well as other vulnerable groups including women, the elderly and people living with disabilities) in support of all elements of mitigation and adaptation" (p. 16)</p> <p>"The aim is to integrate international and regional standards for equitable investment opportunities for its citizens of different gender, people with disabilities, and youth, as well as those households in economic hardship, and MSMEs" (p. 32)</p> <p>"The MRV system for Antigua and Barbuda when in place will enable it to meet the Paris Agreement requirements on transparency and reporting [...] the system will promote the collection of sex and age disaggregated data</p>

		and focus on ensuring that there is sufficient information available for all social/gender groups (including women, children, men, people with disabilities” (p. 34)
Argentina	Segunda Contribución Determinada a Nivel Nacional de la República Argentina, 2020.	<p>“Asimismo, se prestará especial atención a los efectos sobre poblaciones en situación de vulnerabilidad, tales como mujeres y diversidades, jóvenes, pueblos originarios y personas con discapacidades, considerando que estos grupos tienen una participación limitada en la toma de decisiones y en el acceso a los recursos, y que se ven sobrerrepresentadas en la economía informal y el desempleo” (p. 23)</p> <p>El proceso de institucionalización de la educación y la cultura ambiental como política pública propiciará [...] la focalización de políticas y programas culturales para con las poblaciones en situación de vulnerabilidad, tales como niñas y niños, personas adultas, adultos mayores, y personas con discapacidad” (p.24)</p>
Barbados	Barbados 2021 Update of the First Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021.	“Barbados uses targeted policy formation and a monitoring mechanism on progress that identifies the achievement of its national development goals and their ability to ensure that actual development leaves no one behind; and that different groups of people; inclusive of women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and rural dwellers, are all engaged in and benefit from national development efforts” (p. 5)
Belize	Belize Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021.	“Respecting the global sustainable development principle of “no-one left behind”, the climate finance must ensure the inclusion of all groups in the process. Aspects such as gender, indigenous communities, people with disabilities, youth must be represented in a balanced way in the climate finance strategy” (p. 34)

Cabo Verde	Cabo Verde 2020 Update to the first Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021.	<p>“Climate vulnerable groups considers groups and communities that have adversely been affected by climate hazards, and having limited ability and income to recover by themselves. This would include women, the elderly and the youth or persons with disabilities” (p. 12)</p> <p>“By 2023, provide risk data and information: set up early warning systems with recognition of the differentiated impacts most vulnerable groups (women, the youth, disabled people)” (p. 43)</p> <p>“Cabo Verde is also committed to ensuring that Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) becomes, as per Articles 6 and 12 of the Paris Agreement, a key horizontal instrument to involve all levels of society in climate action, in particular vulnerable groups (including children, the youth, the elderly and people living with disabilities) in support of all elements of mitigation and adaptation.” (p. 49)</p>
Cambodia	Cambodia’s Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, 2020.	<p>“Different social groups experience climate vulnerability differently, and women, children, <u>the disabled</u>, the elderly and other socially marginalised groups are often hit harder. (p. 4 and p. 30).</p> <p>“Enhance coordination and implementing accountability mechanisms to reduce climate change vulnerabilities of disadvantaged women and other marginalized groups such as ethnic minority women and men, <u>People with Disabilities (PWD)</u>, youth, and the elderly.” (p. 38)</p> <p>“In Disaster Risk Management (DRM), little gender-disaggregated data collection exists, therefore information on the differentiated impacts of disasters on women, the elderly, children, <u>disabled people</u>, and other socially</p>

		<p>marginalised groups is largely anecdotal. Data collection needs to be prioritised and the role of women in DRM strengthened, particularly in the potential role women and children can play a key role in developing and monitoring emergency response plans.” (p. 43)</p> <p>“Integrated groundwater management in Cambodia (...) The component of project output to be aligned with Policy on Promotion of Gender Equality for Sub- national Democratic Development of NCDD 50% of stakeholders consulted are women, and people from socially marginalised groups (people with disabilities, the elderly, ethnic minorities).” (p. 133)</p>
Canada	Canada’s 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, 2021.	<p>“With a diversity of unique experiences and knowledge related to the environment and climate change, the voices of Indigenous women, youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQQIA, and persons with disabilities are an essential part of climate leadership and action” (p. 7)</p> <p>“As the global market continues to demand cleaner products and services, the Government will help Canada’s workforce take advantage of this opportunity. This includes supporting Canadians as they build new skills in growing sectors, helping workers receive the education and accreditation they need, strengthening workers’ futures by connecting them to employers and good jobs, and ensuring that underrepresented Canadians, including women, racialized Canadians, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and youth have equitable access to those opportunities” (p. 9)</p>

		<p>"The Government of Canada will conduct additional GBA+ for each climate policy and programs to maximize positive benefits for those most impacted by the negative effects of climate change, including low-income Canadians, women, racialized Canadians, persons with disabilities, Indigenous communities and people living in rural and remote communities" (p. 22-23)</p>
Chad	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC for the Republic of Chad, 2015	<p>Depending on the geographic zone, climate change exposes certain sectors and social groups to a medium to high level of vulnerability [1 = very high, 6 = lower) [...] 5) disabled heads of family (p. 4)</p>
Republic of Congo	Contribution déterminée au niveau national (CDN) de la République du Congo	<p>"Le ministère en charge de l'Environnement qui coordonne la politique du gouvernement en matière de changements climatiques, assure la Coordination Technique du processus CDN avec les parties prenantes institutionnelles, la société civile et les Partenaires Techniques et Financiers. L'intérêt porté sur la dimension genre justifie la place du Conseil consultatif des femmes, du Conseil consultatif des personnes vivant avec handicap et du Conseil consultatif de la jeunesse" (p. 35)</p>
Costa Rica	Contribución Nacionalmente Determinada, 2020.	<p>"Costa Rica está comprometida a desarrollar un sistema de movilidad basado en la movilidad activa y un sistema de transporte público seguro, eficiente, impulsado con energía renovable y accesible para todas las personas, incluyendo aquellas con discapacidades; con una flota de vehículos ligeros cero emisiones y un transporte de carga eficiente" (p. 17)</p> <p>"A partir del 2021, el país desarrollará espacios de diálogo y participación, tanto virtuales como presenciales para grupos particularmente</p>

		<p>vulnerabilizados ante el cambio climático, incluyendo a la comunidad Afrodescendiente, grupos organizados de mujeres, juventudes, comunidad transexual, Pueblos Indígenas, personas con discapacidad y personas adultas mayores de manera apropiada y accesible a las realidades, cosmovisiones y tradiciones de las distintas comunidades y poblaciones” (p. 50)</p> <p>“Para el año 2030, el país dará seguimiento a los indicadores requeridos para garantizar la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la comunidad Afrodescendiente, los grupos organizados de mujeres, las juventudes, la comunidad transexual, los Pueblos Indígenas, las personas con discapacidad y las personas adultas mayores en la agenda climática en los sectores de acción” (p. 52)</p> <p>“Para el año 2030 el país contará con datos diferenciados sobre la realidad de los grupos históricamente excluidos y más vulnerabilizados ante los efectos del cambio climático incluyendo como mínimo a la comunidad Afrodescendiente, grupos organizados de mujeres, juventudes, comunidad transexual, Pueblos Indígenas, personas con discapacidad y personas adultas mayores” (p. 53)</p>
Dominican Republic	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) of the Commonwealth of Dominica, 2015.	<p>“While there are several sectors and issues identified by national stakeholders as being important to address climate change risks in Dominica, there are a few that require priority attention if building of climate resilience is to be achieved [...] (g) Creating the supportive enabling framework whereby communities and vulnerable segments of society (women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities) can manage their own climate change risks, thereby addressing climate change impacts on vulnerable sectors</p>

		(particularly agriculture, fisheries and water resources) and threats to food security, human health, poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihoods and economic growth” (p. 16).
Eswatini	Kindom of Eswatini, Update of the Nationally Determined Contributions, 2021.	“Eswatini has recognized several such vulnerable groups such as women, LGBTQI, rural population, elderly, disabled and youth to name a few. The interests of these vulnerable groups are protected through a series of cross cutting actions” (p. 8)
Fiji	Fiji’s Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, 2020.	“Fiji will take appropriate steps to protect its social infrastructure against climate change and prioritise gender, disability, and the needs of the children and elderly in disaster management and in climate action” (p. 20)
Georgia	Georgia’s Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), 2021.	<p>“The observation of the impacts of extreme weather events on Georgia’s population, induced by the climate change during the last decades, reveals the following vulnerable groups requiring urgent adaptation measures: children and adolescents, women, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic diseases, and eco-migrants displaced as a result of disasters caused by climate change or those, who are threatened to be eco migrated due to the climate change” (p. 11)</p> <p>“Georgia’s updated NDC acknowledges the needs of particular knowledge, resources, and services for the persons with a disability to effectively respond to climate change” (p. 19)</p> <p>“Georgia’s updated NDC calls on stakeholders on national and international level to design educational programmes for the persons with a disability with consideration of country-specific peculiarities” (p. 19)</p>
Jordan	Updated Submission of	“Implementation of NDC and climate plans should take into consideration the need to create

	Jordan’s First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), 2021.	<p>adequate spaces, tools and empowerment opportunities for the increasing percentage of disabled people in Jordan. Development of green infrastructure at urban areas should include disabled friendly options, while creating new green skilled labor opportunities could integrate the disabled through learning, awareness, education and management career paths that are based on possibilities of disabled people to enter the market by taking chance of opportunities created by virtual working environments. Adaptation and mitigation measures that are disabled friendly should be considered as social priorities in addition to their climate friendly nature” (p. 25)</p> <p>“Identification through science-based evidence and in-depth social and environmental analysis of the current and potential impacts of climate change on most vulnerable groups in Jordan including women, children, poor, disabled and the unemployed” (p. 55)</p>
Kiribati	Republic of Kiribati Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, 2016.	<p>“The effects of climate change are felt first and most acutely by vulnerable and marginalised populations, including women, children, youth, people with disabilities, minorities, the elderly and the urban poor” (p. 15)</p> <p>“All strategies and actions in the KJIP are inclusive of vulnerable groups, considering gender, youth and children, the elderly and people with disabilities” (p. 20)</p>
Maldives	Update of Nationally Determined Contribution of Maldives, 2020.	<p>“Extreme weather such as storm surges and flooding cause significant damage to health care facilities and the delivery of health services during emergencies. These impacts are not limited to physical diseases, but also affects mental and social wellbeing. This often has a disproportionate burden on women, elderly</p>

		persons, persons with disabilities and children” (p. 14)
Marshall Islands	The Republic of the Marshall Islands Nationally Determined Contribution, 2018.	<p>“Climate change will affect everyone, but the impacts of climate change, and the response initiatives, will be differentiated among women, men and youth. Women and children, disabled and impoverished groups are often the most vulnerable and disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change due to their marginalization in global society” (p. 58)</p> <p>“In early 2015, the RMI Government adopted its National Gender Mainstreaming Policy [...] the policy also identifies vulnerable groups of women including those living in the outer islands (rural areas) and those with disabilities” (p. 59)</p>
Mauritius	Update of the Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Mauritius, 2021.	“In terms of institutional arrangements, the distribution of responsibilities among key institutions on areas pertaining to climate change adaptation are presented hereafter [...] Minister of Social Security and National Solidarity: Empowerment of persons with disabilities, elderly persons and local communities to enhance their quality of life” (p. 20)
Mexico	Nationally Determined Contributions 2020 Update, 2020.	“The consequences of the adverse effects of this global phenomenon are even more serious for individuals and groups in vulnerable social, economic and environmental situations, including women, indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities, children, youth, migrants, people with disabilities, sexual minorities, low-income groups, and the elderly” (p. 9)
Moldova	Republic of Moldova’s Updated Nationally	“According to the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2014) and studies undertaken during the NAP-1, considerable investments are needed to provide healthcare in isolated communities to populations particularly vulnerable to the effects

	Determined Contribution, 2020	of climate change (the elderly and disabled people)” (p. 55)
Myanmar	Nationally Determined Contributions, 2021.	<p>“Recent probabilistic risk modeling study estimates that on an average more than 1 million people are exposed to riverine (fluvial) floods, cyclone and storm surges in Myanmar. A large proportion of which are women, children, the elderly, and disabled” (p. 77)</p> <p>“Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 and 8.5. MUDRA platform provides insights into the level of risk for various return period and its distribution across Myanmar through six risk indicators [...] (iv) population (children, women, disabled, elderly, female headed households) [...] . The portal is intended to act as a common platform across agencies in Myanmar for developing, collaborating and sharing disaster risk information to promote risk-informed development and thereby contributing to the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals” (p. 78)</p>
Panama	Contribución Determinada a Nivel Nacional de Panama: Primera Actualización, 2020.	“Como parte de esta visión, Panamá reconoce que al adoptar medidas para hacer frente al cambio climático, se deberá respetar, promover y tomar en consideración sus respectivas obligaciones con respecto a los derechos humanos, el derecho a la salud, los derechos de los pueblos indígenas, las comunidades locales, los migrantes, los niños, las personas con discapacidad y las personas en situaciones de vulnerabilidad y el derecho al desarrollo, así como la igualdad de género, el empoderamiento de la mujer y la equidad intergeneracional” (p. 6)

		<p>“Esta desigualdad se traduce en vulnerabilidad, siendo las mujeres, las personas con discapacidad y los indígenas las poblaciones en condiciones más vulnerables” (p. 21)</p> <p>“De acuerdo con registros estadísticos y meteorológicos, desde el año 2004 se ha observado un incremento en la frecuencia de eventos extremos en el país, siendo los hidrometeorológicos los que han afectado más ecosistemas diferentes, así como a la población más vulnerable, incluyendo mujeres, niños y niñas, personas con discapacidad, personas en situación de pobreza y hombres y las mujeres, y falta de presupuesto para la ejecución de programas de investigación y planificación de los recursos hídricos a nivel de cuencas hidrográficas. En materia de género, el Plan Nacional de Seguridad” (p. 49-50)</p>
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea’s Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution 2020, 2020.	“Papua New Guinea’s adaptation actions comprise tangible and intangible activities that aim to benefit targeted populations. These include smallholder farmers, micro, small and medium-enterprises in business, community-based organizations, clans, and villages, with particular focus on the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, young persons, the elderly, and people living with disabilities, members of underprivileged or less advanced groups, or residents of less advanced areas” (p. 24)
Saint Lucia	Saint Lucia’s Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021.	“Saint Lucia is also committed to ensuring that Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) becomes, as per Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, a key cross-cutting instrument to involve all levels of society in climate action, in particular most vulnerable groups (including children, youth, the elderly and people living with

		<p>disabilities) in support of all elements of mitigation and adaptation” (p. 5)</p> <p>“Saint Lucia sees the importance of preparing all children and youth, including those with disabilities, to participate in future planning/decision making processes by providing equal access to education [...] Efforts are underway to pilot a project which will be expanded to provide reading support for students with print disabilities” (p. 9)</p>
Seychelles	Seychelles’ Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021	<p>“Seychelles plans to: [...] Fulfil the rights and aspirations of key populations, vulnerable groups (women, youth children and others) indigenous peoples, disabled persons and other marginalized groups through investments in climate adaptation with particular focus on those left behind” (p. 18-19)</p>
Sierra Leone	Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), 2021.	<p>“The priority sectors for the NDC are identified based on an analysis of national priorities contained in various climate change documents, as well as prescriptions by the UNFCCC for NDC development. For mitigation, the priority sectors include [...] gender and Social Inclusion (focusing on youth, women, elderly, persons with disabilities)” (p. 19)</p> <p>“Risks during and following natural disasters are often higher for women, girls, and persons with disability due to social norms, breakdowns in law and order, and disrupted livelihoods. Women, girls and persons with disability also bear the brunt of risks and vulnerabilities brought on by droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events, which places them at the front lines of adaptation as important and necessary stakeholders in effective adaptation to climate change. The NDC considers gender transformative and socially inclusive strategies</p>

		<p>that will empower women, girls and persons with disability, reduce gender inequality, and improve adaptation and resilience outcomes” (p. 21)</p> <p>“The governance and coordination mechanism for the NDC will foster the empowerment of women and marginalised people by ensuring meaningful participation in NDC implementation activities. Activities that create an enabling environment for women, youth, children, and persons with disability have been proposed, which will help to institutionalize GESI-sensitive approaches delivered at the technical and operational levels” (p. 48)</p>
Sri Lanka	Updated Nationally Determined Contributions, 2021.	<p>“It is recommended that down-scaled risk assessments and sectoral plans integrate specific needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of women, young children, disabled and elderly populations” (p. 27)</p> <p>“Social welfare systems strengthened to cover vulnerable groups including families below the poverty line, elderly, disabled people, nursing mothers and young children in Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas identified as vulnerable to food insecurity” (p. 44)</p>
State of Palestine	The State of Palestine’s First Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) “Updated Submission”, 2021	“Palestine’s technology roadmap is designed to be gender responsive and makes recommendations throughout to ensure that the differing needs of women and men (along with other groups, including youth, persons with disabilities, and refugees) are met” (p. 31)
Tanzania	Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021.	“Promoting measures to address negative impacts of climate change on young people, women, old and other groups facing inequality, including people with disabilities” (p. 12)
Togo	Contributions Déterminées au	“Cependant, la simulation montre que dans le futur, le risque de ses maladies pourrait s’étendre

	niveau National (CDN) Revisées, 2021.	vers le sud avec une aggravation dans les régions septentrionales. Le taux de mortalité serait en augmentation et la vulnérabilité des personnes âgées, des femmes enceintes, des personnes handicapées, des personnes vivant avec le VIH-SIDA et des enfants deviendra de plus en plus forte” (p. 39)
Tunisia	Contribution Déterminée au niveau National (CDN) actualisée, 2021.	“Par ailleurs, davantage d’efforts seront faits en matière de mise en réseau des femmes, des jeunes et des autres groupes vulnérables (personnes âgées, personnes en situation de handicap, personnes fragiles, etc.) afin qu’ils bénéficient des expériences des uns et des autres et renforcent leur pouvoir de négociation et de décision mais aussi leur contribution aux programmes visant à la fois la transition bas-carbone et l’adaptation” (p. 48)
Uzbekistan	First Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement (Unofficial translation), 2017.	“To make available, by 2025, georeferenced information of social vulnerabilities associated to adverse climatic events, adopting human rights and gender perspectives and looking at childhood, population below the poverty line and/or indigence, homeless people, older adults, disabled people, afro-descendants, migrants and rural population” (p. 19)
Vietnam	Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, 2020.	“In poor families, female-headed households, and households with children with disabilities and/or fatal diseases, negative impacts of climate change may force children to drop out of school in order to work to support their parents financially” (p. 15)
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Revised Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021.	“Intersectionality of gender, disability, poverty and child-headed households compounds climate change vulnerabilities and is of importance in relation to the principle of “leaving no one behind” (p. 6)

2. References to Disability in Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, which do not appear in the updated Nationally Determined Contribution

State	Document & Date	References to Disability
Ethiopia	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 2017.	“Measures to address climate change will be planned and implemented in a manner that addresses the wellbeing of the elderly, persons with disabilities and environmental refugees” (p. 4)
Uganda	Uganda’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, 2015	“The rural poor and those living in slums are especially vulnerable as they have lower capacity to cope with and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Women are especially vulnerable in terms of food insecurity, water shortage and fuel wood scarcity. Children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities or sick are also particularly vulnerable” (p. 4)

3. References to Disability in National Climate Adaptation Policies

State	Document & Date	References to Disability
Austria	National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	<p>“In addition, research should examine which sectors and regions in Austria are particularly affected by the social consequences of climate change, which population groups (the elderly, the disabled, low-income households) are more likely to feel the effects of climate change, which measures (under regimes of both climate change mitigation and adaptation) entail social and economic benefits, how the resilience of health and social policies can be improved, and how adaptation measures in all policy areas can be sensitized to the social dimension”</p> <p>“Heat can lead to dehydration, make various illnesses worse, and also cause heat cramps,</p>

		sunstroke and heat stroke. The risk is high for older people, people with relevant underlying diseases (cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, metabolic disorders etc.) and for babies and children. In addition, performance can be impaired. In particular, people who work outdoors or at hot working places are affected”
Central African Republic	Programme d’action national d’adaptation	<p>“Les effets néfastes du changement climatique sur la population existent. Il serait souhaitable que des études spécifiques soient menées dans un bref délai pour rendre plus parlant et convainquant.</p> <p>Les rapports qui parviennent au SNIS montrent bien certaines périodes de flambées des maladies qui cadrent au phénomène du changement climatique.</p> <p>La population centrafricaine vulnérable est essentiellement constituée de femmes, d’enfants et de quelques vieillards. Il existe également des albinos, des personnes immunodéprimées, des malades de drépanocytose, des obèses et quelques grands malades non catégorisés comme les malades de rhumatisme. La population la plus vulnérable serait majoritairement représentée par les enfants de moins de 5 ans et les femmes enceintes”</p>
Chile	National Action Plan for Climate Change	<p>“Todas las poblaciones son vulnerables, pero algunas más que otras. Todas las poblaciones se verán afectadas por el cambio climático, pero los riesgos sanitarios iniciales dependen mucho del lugar de residencia y del modo de vida de la gente. Los habitantes de pequeños estados insulares en desarrollo y otras regiones costeras, megalópolis y regiones montañosas o polares son todos ellos particularmente vulnerables, pero de distinto modo. Se prevé que los efectos</p>

		<p>en la salud serán más graves en las personas de edad, los enfermos o los ya afectados por algún problema de salud. Probablemente la mayor parte de la carga de morbilidad adicional recaerá en los niños y los pobres, en especial las mujeres. Las principales enfermedades más sensibles al cambio climático : la diarrea, enfermedades de transmisión vectorial como la malaria e infecciones asociadas a la desnutrición, son más graves en los niños que viven en condiciones de pobreza.”</p>
Cook Islands	<p>Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation (JNAP DRM CCA)</p>	<p>“TABLE 2: Cross-cutting socio-economic considerations- TEMPERATURE RISE: Key economic sector losses increasing poverty. Increasing energy demand (cooling). Particularly of concern for already vulnerable groups the disabled, youth and women.... EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS: Damages to critical infrastructure, relocation of people, pollution, disruption of education and social services, affecting already vulnerable groups like disabled, youth, and women”</p>
Czechia	<p>The Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Czech Republic</p>	<p>“Furthermore, negative effects on the health of particularly vulnerable groups can be expected with a reduced ability to thermoregulate (especially the elderly, the sick and very young children), ie an increased risk of overheating or dehydration of the organism (for more details see Chapter 3.6. Health and hygiene)”</p> <p>“Create air-conditioned shelters (spaces with a suitable microclimate) for vulnerable and sensitive people and children with chronic respiratory diseases in hospitals and social centers”</p> <p>“An increase in the number of days with temperatures higher than 30 ° C will lead to an increased risk of overheating, sunburn,</p>

		<p>dehydration and the occurrence of health problems (or an increase in mortality) especially in high-risk groups of the population with impaired thermoregulation ability (old, sick and small children) and cardiovascular, renal, respiratory and metabolic disorders”</p> <p>“Create air-conditioned shelters (spaces with a suitable microclimate) for vulnerable and sensitive people and children with chronic respiratory diseases in hospitals and social centers”</p>
Czechia	National Action Plan on Adaptation to Climate Change	<p>“Within each type of receptor exposure is then there may be particularly sensitive elements that further increase the severity of the impact on the subject system, and thus its overall vulnerability. Examples are particularly vulnerable groups populations during heat waves, such as the elderly or sick”</p> <p>“However, mortality rates vary from country to country position. In addition, the deterioration of air quality (ozone, PM). The current definition is thus not the best guide for proposing adaptation measures for situations for example: [...] The emergence or worsening of the health problems of the population, especially children, the elderly and people suffering cardiovascular and respiratory diseases treated with certain drugs (e.g. depression, insomnia, thyroid disease), pregnant and lactating women, socially isolated people, with reduced mobility, with mental disabilities,”</p> <p>“Rapid temperature fluctuations or extreme ones can also have serious effects on human health in particular temperatures compared to the</p>

		<p>average temperatures in a given period (e.g. high temperatures in winter). In this area, a functioning early warning system targeting vulnerable groups is essential population (e.g. children, the elderly, the disabled)”</p> <p>“Urban landscape and health and hygiene – In urban areas with high density extremely high temperatures are the greatest risk to the population. In addition, they are often amplified here effect of the so-called urban heat island. There is a deterioration in the health of sensitive population groups (especially the long-term sick, young children, the elderly, and others)”</p>
Ecuador	National Strategy for Climate Change	<p>“To face the impacts of climate change it is necessary to include variables to consider, for example, the dimension human through criteria such as “groups of priority attention” due to age situations, gender, poverty, marginalization, among others. This does that even though the IPCC has also defined “Sectors” for adaptation to change climate, the definition of work areas for adaptation to climate change does not correspond necessarily with the “sectors” of the traditionally known economy”</p> <p>The possible impacts caused by the changes in the climate they have a greater potential for damage for certain sectors of society, mainly in those who are at risk and have greater difficulty to recover. The Constitution of Ecuador of 2008, points out within this group to older adults, girls, boys and teenagers, pregnant women, people with disabilities, people deprived of freedom and those who suffer from diseases catastrophic or highly complex, people at risk, victims of violence domestic and sexual, child abuse,</p>

		<p>disasters natural or anthropogenic added to people with lower levels of income and coverage limited services, such as the most vulnerable to the impacts derived from the climate not have the necessary conditions, be these physical, economic, social or location them to recover to the events produced due to the effects of climate change”</p>
<p>Egypt</p>	<p>National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction</p>	<p>“The health impact that is expected to come about as a consequence to climate change will therefore increase due to the vulnerability of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Egyptian population. Health effects resulting from climate change are expected to affect children, the elderly, the poor, and people inhabiting rural areas the most”</p> <p>“It is known that hot weather – particularly if it comes in unexpected waves – increases illnesses and contributes directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, particularly among the elderly”</p> <p>“Climate change leads to noticeable changes in the quantity and quality of water available for drinking and general use [...] elderly people and children below the age of five are the most susceptible to infection and complications, particularly dehydration, which potentially may lead to death”</p> <p>“Climate change creates a vicious circle of infectious diseases and malnutrition. [...] It is worth mentioning that malnutrition also causes damage to other groups, such as older school children, pregnant women, and the elderly”</p>

		<p>“Public health, increased risk of deaths and infection as a result of the spread of waterborne and nutrition diseases, drowning and other health effects due to flooding, negative effects of migration, the increased risk of mortality among the elderly, the chronically ill and children (due to high temperatures), an increasing risk of death from infectious diseases, and respiratory and skin diseases caused by food shortages and malnutrition”</p>
<p>Estonia</p>	<p>Climate Change Adaptation Development Plan until 2030</p>	<p>“Heat waves are one of the main future climate risks, having already occurred in Estonia in the summers of the past decade. From the middle of the present century, the frequency of heat waves will increase considerably. The impact of heat waves amplify in towns as the heat island effect, affecting especially the chronically ill, small children and the elderly, among whom the risk of illness and mortality increases”</p> <p>“The less privileged people are most threatened by climate – people in a disadvantaged socio-economic situation and with smaller social capital who may not have the means and the network for buffering the immediate climate change they are exposed to or for mitigating climate risks. Health effects are primarily manifested in children, the elderly and people with chronic illnesses or those with several simultaneous health problems. Therefore, extreme weather conditions may deepen the inequality in the society”</p> <p>“The impact of climate change is also expected to be higher on certain groups of the society, e.g. the elderly, people with special needs or small social and economic capital”</p>

Finland	National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022	<p>“The magnitude of the adverse impacts of climate change should also be considered from the perspective of regions and population groups. Among the latter the groups very much exposed to the weather-related impacts are the elderly, small children and sick people” (p. 9)</p>
Germany	German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change	<p>“In order to take measures against the effects of climate change on non-infectious diseases, especially in vulnerable population groups (e.g. children and elderly people, patients suffering from several diseases simultaneously), it is necessary to take a large number of additional factors into account, for example changes in living, housing and environmental conditions, changes in health habits and medical care”</p> <p>“Since there is an increasing probability that southern Europe will experience daily maximum air temperatures of 40°C or more during the peak season, travellers can expected to suffer increased heat stress, which can have unfavourable effects on the well-being of older persons and children in particular”</p>
Ghana	National Climate Change Policy	<p>“Climate change intensifies the risk of climate-related disasters and leads to increased loss of lives, livelihoods and assets, which also interferes with the economic and social development of the country. Vulnerable groups, such as the disabled, the aged, children, youth and women, are particularly affected as they have poorer coping mechanisms. Disaster risk strategies increase the resilience of social systems by minimizing the risk of exposure to future hazards, and reducing the vulnerability of communities and their property” (p. 66)</p> <p>“Increase the resilience of vulnerable groups, including women and children, through the development of community-led adaptation,</p>

		<p>livelihood diversification, better access to basic services and social protection (safety nets, insurance)”</p> <p>“The capability of social groups to adapt to and mitigate climate change depends on physical, socio-economic, gender and technological factors. Climate change increases the vulnerability of the poor in the areas of water supply, exposure to disease, increasing sensitivity of livelihood activities. Marginalised groups such as poor women, the aged, the physically challenged and children are at risk of being most affected by climate change and variability due to insufficient access to basic resources such as land, water, basic services and knowledge”</p> <p>“The NCCP recognizes that the human impact of climate change falls, for the most part, on the poor, and – very often – on women and children, the aged and the physically challenged. As such, social protection and social safety nets to smooth out inequities and building a more cohesive society are vital for climate resilience and national development”</p> <p>“The human impact of climate change falls, for the most part, on the poorest: the urban poor who live in low-lying and flood-prone areas and the rural poor who rely on groundwater for their water supply, and – very often – women and children, the aged and the physically challenged. It is clear that, whatever the eventual shape of climate change, it can only magnify existing social pressures, such as the pressure to leave rural areas and migrate to towns and cities”</p>
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Greece	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NAS)	<p>“The identification of the sensitive groups of the population that show the mega-greater vulnerability to the effects of climate change, such as the elderly and people who already have respiratory and cardiovascular diseases are an important condition for the proper treatment of these effects”</p>
Guatemala	National Adaptation Program of Action	<p>“The PANCC argues that, by adopting measures to face climate change, human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, and women are respected. people with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, as well as gender equality, the empowerment of women and inter-generational equity”</p>
Hungary	National Climate Change Strategy	<p>“The 2006 Report of the World Health Organisation stated, and national studies also confirmed that the most sensitive populations include children below 4 years of age, elderly people above 65, overweight individuals and bedridden patients”</p>
Ireland	National Adaptation Framework	<p>“This hot and dry summer was associated with increased mortality (especially among the elderly and infirm) ----- Climate change will amplify existing risks and create new risks for natural and human systems. Risks are unevenly distributed and are generally greater for disadvantaged</p>

		people and communities in countries at all levels of development”
Kenya	National Adaptation Plan (2015-2030)	<p>“Action: Strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups (women, orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly, and persons with disability”</p> <p>“Through a focus on Gender, Vulnerable Groups and Youth, the Government is committed to achieving gender equity in all aspects of society, provide children with basic rights, have a labour force inclusive of young people at all levels (15-35 year olds), alleviate the condition of vulnerable persons (including orphans and vulnerable children, persons with disabilities, the aged, widows, widowers, internally and externally displaced persons, marginalised persons and pastoralists living in ASALs) and enable the vulnerable to have equitable opportunities to participate in socio-economic activities. These groups are particularly vulnerable to a variable and changing climate and often have least access to and control of resources, (such as capital, credit, and land), live in areas exposed to a variable/changing climate (such as arid lands and urban poor areas) and are less able to cope with climate shocks and stresses”</p>
Kiribati	Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (2019-2028), 2019.	<p>“The effects of climate variability and change are felt first and most acutely by vulnerable and marginalised populations, including women, children, youth, people with disabilities, minorities, the elderly and the urban poor” (p. 45)</p> <p>“Lack of disability-friendly resources on climate change and natural hazards and a lack of capacity to cope with and reduce risks among people with disabilities” (p. 59)</p>

		<p>“The potential loss of life and damage due to lack of early warning systems and limited capacity to cope, especially for vulnerable groups (such as children, people with disabilities and women)” (p. 59)</p> <p>“In all strategies of the KJIP, various actions and sub-actions include considerations regarding gender, youth and children, the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups” (p. 68)</p> <p>“Develop and implement a climate change and climate risks communications plan [...] Consult with women’s groups, young people and representatives for people with a disability in ensuring communications plans and communications approaches are inclusive, culturally responsive, and reflect known barriers for communication for key population groups” (p. 104)</p> <p>“Develop and provide communities with health information necessary to address health risks of climate change (including specific information targeting young people, people with disabilities, women and men)” (p. 130)</p> <p>“Promote the equal participation and influence of women and men in climate change and DRM initiatives [...] deliver targeted and ongoing awareness-raising activities for and with people with a disability; support and resource people with disabilities to initiate and run adaptation projects” (p. 171)</p> <p>“Increase knowledge and awareness of climate change and DRM among people with disabilities</p>
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		in CC and DRM initiatives: (a) Deliver disaster preparedness training for people with disabilities and those that are supporting them” (p. 171)
Latvia	Latvia's adaptation to climate change plan time for the period up to 2030	<p>“In Latvia, climate change will potentially affect the most vulnerable groups of society (families with young children, the elderly, people with chronic illnesses (including physical and mental people with disabilities, the poor and disadvantaged, people economically active regional centers, etc.)”</p> <p>Table 1: Latvia's climate change impact indicators [...] 5. Number of persons with disabilities due to respiration systemic diseases - ----- The damage caused to the home due to extreme weather conditions increases socio-economic stability of households, economically active productivity of household members; Population groups that are at risk of poverty and social exclusion, difficulties in securing their own adaptation of housing (house / apartment) to the effects of climate change.</p>
Liechtenstein	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	<p>“Increased ozone pollution: During hot periods, combined with intense solar radiation, increased formation of ground-level ozone can be expected. Ozone is an irritant gas and, in high concentrations, causes various complaints, especially in sensitive population groups such as children, sick or elderly people (e.g. irritation of the mucous membranes, burning eyes, difficulty breathing and impaired lung function)”</p> <p>“More frequent, more intense and longer lasting heat waves are a health burden especially for the elderly, sick and in need of care as well as infants”</p>
Luxembourg	National Adaptation Strategy on Climate Change	<p>4.8.1: Impact of climate change on the sector The increasing thermal stress caused by climate change leads to an impairment of human health.</p>

		This affects above all old people, small children and chronically ill people in metropolitan areas in which the number of tropical nights is also increasing and which also strain the organism at night
Malawi	National Programmes of Action (NAPA)	“The most vulnerable groups are rural communities, especially women, children, female-headed households and the elderly. Thus, based on the above policy frameworks, several strategic goals and objectives were used to guide in the preparation of the NAPA report, which include: (i) achieving food security, (ii) reducing poverty, (iii) attaining and maintaining positive economic growth, (iii) improving the welfare of women, the elderly, children and the physically challenged, and their access to production resources, (iv) addressing the special needs of orphans, and recognizing the role of women, female- and children-headed households”
Marshall Islands	Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management	“Objective: Strengthen preparedness and response capacity amongst relevant ministries and agencies at national and local levels to ensure in particular a focus on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and those with special needs” “Local Government and Traditional Leaders: Each inhabited island has a local council headed by a mayor. The Marshall Islands Mayors Association (MIMA) is an important association in which local issues are raised and reported to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Mayors and Traditional Leaders will therefore be a crucial link between national government and communities in supporting JNAP implementation”
Mexico	Estrategia nacional de cambio climático Visión	“Consider in the design of all climate change policies aspects of gender, ethnicity, disability, inequality, health status and inequity in access to

		<p>services public and involve in its implementation the different sectors of society. Where appropriate, enter the principle of "free prior and informed consent"</p> <p>"Design and implement a communication strategy effective in all sectors of society, taking into account the diversity of contexts (cultural, economic, political, ethnic, gender and others)"</p>
Mexico	Programa especial de cambio climático	4.3.7: Take affirmative actions so that women victims of disasters, reinserted, disabled, or older adults can re-inhabit, regularize or acquire housing
Mexico	Ley General de Cambio Climático	Article 71: The State programs will be developed at the start of each administration, and will always endeavor to maintain gender equity and representation from the most vulnerable populations to climate change, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, academics, and researchers
Moldova	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Moldova	48. Risks and opportunities of climate change impact on the Health Sector. Subpopulations that are most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change depend on the region, the health outcome, and population characteristics, including human, institutional, social, and economic capacity. Individual vulnerability depends on genetic, developmental, acquired, and socio-economic factors. In general, the most vulnerable include children, older adults, individuals with chronic medical conditions, disadvantaged groups, and populations highly dependent on natural resources.

		Table 11 summarises vulnerable populations by health outcome.
Namibia	National Policy on Climate Change	“Climate change is expected to disproportionately affect vulnerable groups such as the poor, people living with disability, people living with HIV, the elderly, OVC, and marginalised communities”
Nauru	Republic of Nauru Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction	“The perspectives of the most vulnerable people should be incorporated into planning and priority setting. This includes understanding the way vulnerability might be influenced by variables such as gender, age, marital status, physical health and mobility, income levels, housing location, religion, and educational background, amongst others. It also means enabling women and children, as well as other potentially vulnerable groups, to meaningfully contribute to CCA and DRR planning”
Panama	Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático	“Most vulnerable community or subsector [...] Older adults and those with bodily dysfunctions Children, infants and pregnant women with high levels of poverty and malnutrition”
Poland	Strategic Adaptation Plan for sectors and areas sensitive to climate change (SPA 2020)	3.3.11. Health: Climate change can indirectly affect health by creating conditions for an increase in air (secondary dusting and ozone) and water pollution, the development of bacteria that cause foodborne infections, as well as infectious diseases transmitted by insects. Climate change affects society as a whole, but vulnerable groups are particularly vulnerable to climate-related diseases, such as the elderly, the sick, the disabled, the homeless and the poor, and children. In the area of health protection, climate change may most strongly manifest itself in the form of increased incidence of skin cancer and deaths of melanoma as well as deaths related to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. A positive effect of the progressive

		warming of the winter periods is a reduction in the number of deaths caused by the body's cooling down
Saint Lucia	Climate Change Adaptation Policy	<p>“Conducting appropriate studies to understand the scope and breadth of vulnerabilities of certain groups, including poor children and the elderly, poor women and men in order to design appropriate response strategies” (p. 10)</p> <p>“This includes people’s differential access to, and control over, resources - land, money, livelihoods, credit, healthy and sound living conditions and personal mobility” (p. 20)</p>
Slovakia	Adaptation strategy of the Slovenian Republic to the unappealable effects of climate change	<p>“The economic consequences of climate change in settlements, whether urban or rural, can lead to further exacerbate social problems, including poverty and poor quality of life. negative Demographic and socio-economic trends can make it vulnerable to the consequences of climate change increase in the future. The negative effects of climate change will be most pronounced in the most vulnerable population. In our conditions, they are old people, living alone, children, people low-income people with disabilities”</p> <p>“Deterioration of overall health the old and lonely will be most affected over the age of 75, children, the physically and physically handicapped”</p>
Slovakia	Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for Climate Change	“Create measures in the social field, focusing on the most vulnerable part of the population (children, the sick, the elderly), including the creation of an alert system, the provision of assistance, the introduction of communication with the population”

		<p>“Vulnerable groups are mainly the elderly, children, the chronically ill and the socially isolated people. Older people suffer from more chronic diseases, poverty, are isolated, mobile restrictions and do not have sufficient access to means of transport and medical devices. Children are particularly vulnerable because of their immature physiological conditions and cognitive abilities”</p> <p>“Deterioration of thermal comfort due to the intensification of the urban heat island effect ("Heat Island effect"). Increased mortality and heat-related morbidity, especially in the elderly, chronically ill, very young and socially isolated people. Increased risk of dehydration. Deterioration of the overall health condition, the most affected will be the elderly and lonely over the age of 75, children, the physically and physically handicapped. Deterioration of the health status of people with cardiovascular or respiratory diseases”</p> <p>“The economic consequences of climate change in settlements, whether urban or rural, may lead to a further exacerbation of social problems, including poverty and poor quality of life. Negative demographic and socio-economic trends may increase vulnerability to the consequences of climate change in the future. The most significant consequences of climate change will be felt in the most vulnerable population. In our conditions, it is the elderly, people living alone, children, people on low incomes and people who suffer from a disability. Socially just adaptation is a set of policies and measures that respond to current climate variability and anticipate future climate change and its consequences, ensuring that neither the</p>
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		<p>consequences of climate change nor the policies and measures themselves exacerbate existing or create new inequalities between different sections of urban society”</p> <p>“Social justice is recognized as a key component of urban resilience. If we want to make cities more resilient, we need to eliminate social inequalities, ensure a fairer distribution of more resilient resources and include justice issues in the planning of adaptation measures. Attention should be paid to indicators such as changes in demography, patterns of work habits, lifestyle choices but also technological progress. Social isolation is one of the root causes of increasing vulnerability to the risks associated with climate change. At the same time, the dwellings of people from socially disadvantaged groups are often located in areas that are unsuitable for life and which will be even more dangerous with the consequences of climate change (e.g. areas at risk of landslides or floods). This aspect must therefore also be addressed in spatial planning”</p>
Slovenia	National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP)	“The most susceptible are sick persons, children and older people” (p. 19)
Solomon Islands	National Climate Change Policy 2012-2017	“Climate change impacts will affect everyone in Solomon Islands and the future generations. The implementation of this policy shall ensure gender equity, and the involvement of men, women, youth, children and people with special needs” (p. 15)
South Africa	National Climate Change Policy 2012-2017	“Special needs and circumstances: Considering the special needs and circumstances of localities and people that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including vulnerable groups such as women, and

		<p>especially poor and/or rural women; children, especially infants and child-headed families; the aged; the sick; and the physically challenged. Uplifting the poor and vulnerable: Climate change policies and measures should address the needs of the poor and vulnerable, and ensure human dignity while endeavouring to attain environmental, social and economic sustainability” (p. 26)</p> <p>“Increased risk of heat-related mortality, especially for the elderly, chronically sick, very young and poor” (p. 47)</p> <p>“Those most vulnerable include the elderly and young children; people with pre-existing medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular conditions; and people without adequate shelter” (p. 60)</p>
South Africa	The National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP) [Called National Climate Change Response White Paper]	<p>“Principles - Special needs and circumstances – considering the special needs and circumstances of localities and people that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including vulnerable groups such as women, and especially poor and/or rural women; children, especially infants and childheaded families; the aged; the sick; and the physically challenged. Uplifting the poor and vulnerable – climate change policies and measures should address the needs of the poor and vulnerable and ensure human dignity, whilst endeavouring to attain environmental, social and economic sustainability” (p. 12)</p> <p>“Furthermore, direct physical temperature stresses pose particular risks for Principles - Special needs and circumstances – considering the special needs and circumstances of localities and people that are particularly vulnerable to the</p>

		<p>adverse effects of climate change, including vulnerable groups such as [...] the sick; and the physically challenged. Uplifting the poor and vulnerable – climate change policies and measures should address the needs of the poor and vulnerable and ensure human dignity, whilst endeavouring to attain environmental, social and economic sustainability” (p. 12)</p> <p>“Furthermore, direct physical temperature stresses pose particular risks for children, the elderly and socio-economically vulnerable communities [...] Women, as primary care-givers, are put under additional strain looking after sick and elderly household members whilst maintaining a household. This leaves them less time to earn a livelihood putting cyclical pressure on them as they often neglect their own health in prioritising the health of others” (p. 19)</p>
South Korea	Climate Change Adaptation Measures	<p>“Socially vulnerable households (low-income, Missing families, multicultural families, people with disabilities, living environment harmful to the elderly living alone), indoor by factor diagnosis and consulting Environmental improvement support “</p> <p>“Atopy, asthma, allergic rhinitis, etc. About children with environmental diseases Free from specialized environmental health centers diagnosis “</p>
Spain	National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2021-2030), 2020.	<p>“The adoption of a participatory approach to adaptation planning and development is supported by the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee, which encourages Parties to “make use of stakeholder input, including from the private sector, civil society, local communities, migrants, children and youth, persons with</p>

		disabilities and people in vulnerable situations” (p. 55)
Sudan	National Adaptation Plan	“[at risk of climate events including rainfall, floods, temperature, solar radiation, wind] All populations in poor condition, especially [...] (a) Infant; (b) under five; (c) pregnant; (d) preschool children; (e) elder, and people with infirmities or pre-existing medical conditions”
Tajikistan	Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience	<p>“The adverse effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those parts of the population that are already vulnerable owing to gender, age and disability”</p> <p>“Understanding of climate change and its implications for Tajikistan enhanced amongst a variety of audiences, including vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and the sick”</p>
Thailand	Master Plan to Support Climate Change	<p>“Climate change can reduce the number of deaths resulting from cold weather, but on the other hand, it could also increase the number of deaths related to hot weather, especially among populations that are sensitive to changes in climate, e.g. newborns, senior citizens, patients suffering from chronic symptoms, and the socially abandoned”</p> <p>“Infrastructure development and services to support the elderly population in both domestic and overseas. However, the elderly are highly sensitive to climate factors such as higher temperatures, sudden temperature fluctuations, occurrence of various natural disasters etc...”</p>
Togo	Plan National d’Adaptation aux Changements	“Les sécheresses et les fortes chaleurs accentueront la prévalence des maladies telles la méningite, affections cardiovasculaires et

	Climatiques du Togo	<p>cérébro-vasculaires, les maladies respiratoires (bronchite, pneumonie, asthme, etc.) qui affecteront les personnes de tous les âges, et principalement les personnes âgées et les enfants</p> <p>“A cet effet, les actions du PNACC seront menées selon une approche holistique basée sur la gestion intégrée des terroirs, la prise en compte des écosystèmes fragiles et des groupes cibles vulnérables dont les jeunes, les femmes, les personnes âgées, les enfants, les handicapés etc”</p> <p>“Les handicapés qui représentent 2,2% de la population souffrent également de pratiques discriminatoires dans différents domaines, tandis que les personnes âgées ne bénéficient pas souvent de prises en charges spécifiques”</p> <p>“D’un autre côté, avec les fortes sécheresses et la chaleur, les conditions de vie seront plus difficiles pour les populations pauvres et vulnérables”</p>
Tonga	National Climate Change Policy	‘Policy Guiding Principles [...] 6. Equity and fairness - Initiatives, programmes and projects will ensure the equitable accessibility and distribution of all benefits, information and support to marginal and disadvantaged groups, recognising their differing vulnerabilities to climate change”
Turkey	Turkey’s National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan	“Awareness raising and training: This should include the development of public awareness campaigns to inform citizens on measures that should be taken, particularly public health related. It also involved the strengthening capacity of vulnerable groups (poor, women, children, youth, elderly, disabled) to take

		<p>advantage of new adaptation strategies (e.g., insurance)”</p>
Uganda	Uganda’s National Climate Change Policy	<p>“Vulnerable groups include the poor, people living with disability, youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, the elderly, orphans and children, refugees, and marginalised communities due to their limited adaptive capacity” (p. 28)</p> <p>“Vulnerable populations (mainly the poor and most marginalised, including children, women, older persons and people with disabilities in developing countries) are particularly poorly equipped to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change”</p> <p>Vulnerable populations (mainly the poor and most marginalised, including children, women and people with disabilities in developing countries) are particularly poorly equipped to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change, because they have a low capacity to respond (i.e., to mitigate or adapt)”</p> <p>“Adequate attention must be given to issues such as HIV/AIDS and gender. Notably, the background studies for this policy revealed that the genders are affected differently by climate change. Vulnerable groups are also particularly at risk from climate change impacts and must be given due attention in the policy and its implementation”</p>
Uruguay	National Climate Change Policy	<p>“Promote the adaptability and resilience of the population through of actions directed towards children, women, the population under poverty and / or indigence line, homeless people, older adults, people with disabilities and the rural population, considering the characteristics of exposure to climate change and variability of the</p>

		<p>population, habitat and natural environment in an integral way”</p> <p>“Increase the capacity of society, particularly the population more vulnerable to knowing the risks of climate change and variability and to properly access and interpret warning systems early”</p>
Zambia	National Policy on Climate Change	“Promote consideration of gender aspects and the role and needs of youth and persons with disabilities in capacity-building activities” (p. 14)
Zimbabwe	National Climate Change Response Strategy	“The inclusion of vulnerable groups (people living with disabilities, children, economically marginalized) in the NAP formulation process right from the start through to the conclusion of the NAP and beyond will be critical to ensure the process ‘leaves no one behind.’”
Zimbabwe	National Climate Policy	<p>“Mainstream gender, children and youth, people living with HIV and AIDS and other vulnerable groups into all climate change interventions”</p> <p>“The out of-school youths and vulnerable groups such as women, children and the disabled are not being reached by the formal climate change education”</p> <p>“Gender, HIV and AIDS, and other vulnerabilities coincide. Women are more vulnerable not only to climate change, but also to social problems including poverty, unemployment and HIV and AIDS [...] Unequal access, control and ownership of natural resources by women and men, youth, the elderly and other vulnerable groups extends the exclusion of the vulnerable groups from important decision and policy-making institutions that govern the natural resources. Governance and decision-making structures at all levels are still dominated by men. The</p>

		<p>impacts of climate change will further widen the gaps and amplify the inequities between women and men and other vulnerable groups”</p> <p>“People Living with Disability have also been excluded from the land reform programme with less than one per cent having benefited from both the land reform programme and the provision of agricultural inputs because they are not regarded as very productive members of society. This makes them more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change”</p> <p>“Build adaptive capacity in vulnerable groups and mainstream these groups in all responses. Ensure equitable access and ownership of resources for climate change adaptation by vulnerable groups. Develop culturally appropriate and gender sensitive labour-saving green technologies. Use integrated adaptation responses that combine indigenous knowledge from the elderly with expert insights”</p> <p>“They are further disadvantaged by old age, disability and HIV status, among other variables, which make them disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change. They experience the greatest impacts of climate change because they are already vulnerable and marginalized, while at the same time, they have the least capacity or opportunity to prepare for its negative effects”</p> <p>“The 2012 National Census carried out by ZIMSTAT revealed that elderly people (65 years and above) comprise about four per cent of the total population. Elderly people find it difficult to participate in development initiatives because of their advanced age and home confinement.</p>
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Zimbabwe	National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	<p>“In taking action to address climate change, the Paris Agreement urges the need to ‘respect, promote and consider obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity’. This is also a key element of this policy which is informed by constitutional provisions covering environment, health and human rights issues”</p> <p>7.4.7. Promote climate smart technologies that are user friendly for children, youths, women, people living with disabilities and vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>“Continuously research and work together with community-based organisations and academia to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies that respond directly to the needs and vulnerabilities of children, youths, women and men, as well as people living with disabilities</p>

		<p>“Climate change impacts are also expected to disproportionately affect the poor, young, elderly, sick, and other marginalized populations”</p> <p>2.3.2. Understand the impacts of climate change on women, children, youth and people living with disabilities in Zimbabwe and create an enabling environment that prevents harm to these vulnerable groups emanating from pressures of these impacts</p> <p>“Support the development and dissemination of simplified meteorological and agrometeorological information for the benefit of farmers, women and people living with disabilities”</p>
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