

V2.2a: From inclusion to equity: Accelerating progress toward realising disability rights

ABOUT THE SESSION:

Disability movements – local, national, regional and global social movements seeking to secure equal opportunities and equal rights for people with disabilities – continue to grow and strengthen.

Now that the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities has been almost universally adopted, states and other institutions are increasingly looking to the next steps of implementation on that convention.

The disability movement, with strong leadership from the Pacific, are clear on the need for a focus on equity, saying that a seat at the table for people with disabilities isn't enough - the shape of the table needs to change to enable full participation.

And Australia is on the cusp of having a new strategy to guide disability inclusive development. For the first time, this strategy will use the language and equity and right – to be called the 'Disability Equity and Rights Strategy'.

At the same time, people with disabilities make up one in every six people and form the largest minority group in the world. 80% of people with disabilities live in developing countries, comprising at least 700million people in the Indo-Pacific region.

In our region and around the world, people with disabilities are among the poorest and most marginalised across all communities. As a result, they are often the people who feel the effects of adversity most harshly and are least likely to be included and supported through efforts to respond.

This dynamic continues to unfold in this, the time of the so-called 'poly-crisis'.

People with disabilities have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, including in terms of more adverse health outcomes, decreased access to health and social services and livelihoods.

People with disabilities are also more vulnerable to the impact of the climate crisis and are more likely to be left out of adaptation efforts, disaster preparedness and responses. This despite the fact that people with disabilities are up to four times more likely to be injured or die as a result of disasters.

Join disability leaders from our region as they discuss the shifts taking place in the disability space – moving from inclusion to equity, from CRPD adoption to implementation - with a particular focus on how to protect the gains made and continue advances to equity in the context of the climate crisis and likely ongoing instability.

This session will include:

- Brief introduction
- Short presentations from disability advocates from the Indo-Pacific
- A facilitated discussion between the speakers
- An opportunity for Q&A with the audience