

## 8. Familiarise yourself with some policies and frameworks that back up the call for DIDRR



Colin Allen, then Vice Chair of the International Disability Alliance and President, World Federation of the Deaf, speaking at the World Humanitarian Summit 2016. ©Oktay Cilesiz

Over the past years, considerable (though far from sufficient) attention has been devoted to the need for DIDRR. Policies and frameworks have provided some impetus as to the requirement for this. Internationally, two are of particular importance. While these are not legally binding, they can be effectively used in your lobbying to remind governments of their obligations.

- **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)<sup>12</sup>:** signed and likely ratified by your country, the CRPD makes ample reference to the need to build inclusive responses to disasters and climate change. Article 11 specifically calls on States Parties to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. This article is essential in ensuring that policies are inclusive from preparedness right through to response. The CRPD also calls for States to actively consult with persons with disabilities on any matters affecting their lives, which would also include DRR and climate action.
- **The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-30)<sup>13</sup>:** endorsed by the UN General Assembly, it includes seven targets and four priority areas which together are aimed at substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses from natural and man-made disasters, while pushing for more concerted efforts directed at the management of disaster risks. The Sendai Framework is significant in that it is one of the first frameworks that considers persons with disabilities and firmly establishes that they and their own organisations should be included in all stages of DRR. It importantly acknowledges that DRR requires ‘an all-of-society engagement and partnership, which promotes the empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation of all people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest’. It goes on to express how ‘effective DRR thus requires a gender, age, disability and cultural perspective in all policies and practices’, which means that with this obligation to leave no one behind, it is now the responsibility of all actors in DRR to commit to inclusion and translate their commitment into action.
- **National laws:** nationally, it might be worthwhile checking if any laws provide for the inclusion of persons with disabilities or vulnerable people in mainstream DRR or DRM efforts or for measures that prevent any discrimination, for example in crisis responses. You may want to also check whether national disability legislation itself makes provisions for these - it most likely does, even if indirectly.

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<sup>12</sup> UN (2006) [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#).

<sup>13</sup> UN (2015) [The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(2015-30\)](#).