**General Comment on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**

**7 March 2022**

**Australian Statement**

Australia is pleased to participate in this **General Comment on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**.

The growing impacts of climate change and frequencies of disasters threatens lives and livelihoods, increasing the need for humanitarian action.

Disasters do not impact people equally – people with disabilities are more likely to be left behind, injured, or killed. Humanitarian emergencies create additional barriers in accessing assistance and lead to an increase in disability prevalence.

During humanitarian crises, persons with disabilities are among the most marginalised:

* information is rarely accessible, before, during and after emergencies
* humanitarian actors often don’t consider disability in coordinating and planning emergency responses, and
  + don’t have the technical expertise to identify persons with disabilities and provide adaptive services, and
* local organisations of persons with disabilities often don’t exist, are displaced or their functions are disrupted.

Australia encourages the Committee to consider the following when developing its general comment on Article 11 to ensure states fulfil their full obligations under the CRPD:

* ensure disability inclusion is adequately resourced, including dedicated funding for capacity building of humanitarian actors
  + training should include how to identify, communicate and adapt services for people with diverse disabilities
* establish a dedicated disability focal point for each agency and program, including to develop and assimilate disability guidance for implementing partners
* require humanitarian partners to identify, analyse, and address risks faced by persons with disabilities as part of funding requirements
* support the establishment of self-help groups during humanitarian emergencies, through which persons with disabilities can represent their own interests, and
* ensure data collection and reporting includes persons with disabilities.

As global humanitarian need grows, we all have a role to ensure no one is left behind.

We welcome opportunities to share lessons learned and innovation on the inclusion of people with disabilities in humanitarian action.