

# Guiding Principles of the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

## Gender Equality

The participation of women is fundamental to effectively manage disaster risk, as well as to design, obtain resources for and put into practice public policies, plans and programs for disaster risk reduction that include a gender equality perspective. It is necessary that measures are adopted to create capacities with the goal of empowering women for disaster reduction and to develop their capacities to ensure that they can engage in alternative livelihoods in situations following disasters.

### Which is why...

The Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will promote a gender equality approach in its sessions. At the same time, the Platform will have a session that is specifically focused on the empowerment of women in risk management. The results of this session will contribute to the Regional Platform's Final Declaration. Following the event, information will be systematized to determine the percentage of women and men who have attended as participants and presenters in the Platform.

## Inclusion of people with disabilities

Disaster risk reduction requires the implication and collaboration of all society. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible, and non-discriminatory participation, providing special attention to people who are disproportionately affected by disasters. People with disabilities are essential in helping to reduce disaster risk and build resilient societies and communities. A setting without barriers helps guarantee complete and equal participation for everyone in society regardless of their age, gender or disability.

The inclusion of the needs and voices of people with disabilities in all of the stages of the disaster management process, and especially during the planning and preparation stages, can contribute to reducing vulnerability in a significant manner for this population and increases the efficiency of government efforts in the areas of response and recovery. The participation of people with disabilities should be planned in advance, detailing how to achieve their full and effective participation in all areas of life including knowledge, health, social organizations, public and private spaces, politics, recreational spaces and others.

## Which is why...

However, full and effective participation doesn't just involve being present, but it is the possibility of people with disabilities enjoying independence and autonomy that is ensured, dignified and promoted. For this reason, we propose the concept of significant participation, which is defined as actions that facilitate the independent and autonomous access of people with disabilities.

The Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will focus on ensuring the significant participation of people with disabilities, understood as all of those actions that allow access for people with disabilities in an independent and autonomous manner. UNDRR, the Government of Jamaica and specialized partners have united their efforts to identify challenges and take the necessary measures, not just guarantee accessibility, but to contribute to the different thematic discussions based on the experiences of people with disabilities in the different Plenary and Parallel Sessions that will take place during the Regional Platform.

### Accessible facilities:

The Platform will have ramps and elevators to facilitate entry and exit to the Montego Bay Convention Centre for people who use wheelchairs.

The Platform will have unisex bathrooms so that people with disabilities can be accompanied if/when this is required.

The Platform will also have volunteers who have received training in facilitating access for people with disabilities.

### Accessible information:

[Website](#): The website has an accessibility section that includes all of the information on accessibility for the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. At the same time, the website in both [Spanish](#) and [English](#) has a section on accessibility in which participants can access all of the information about the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, the website has an accessible Agenda and an accessible Concept Note to communicate the most important information from the Platform.

**Braille**: The Platform will have key documents available in braille such as the Agenda and Concept Note for people who are vision impaired.

**App**: TheApp (digital application) for the Platform will provide information to people who are vision impaired, given that it has a voice system that can read important documents such as the Agenda.

The opening, closing and plenary sessions will be available in sign language for the hearing impaired.

Remote connection:

The Platform will have the possibility of remote participation through two tele-robots, facilitating remote connections through a screen that will circulate through the entire Convention Centre so that people can remotely participate in different spaces.

The connection will be used by different associations of people with disabilities in the Americas and the Caribbean region so that they can participate in the event.

## Sustainability

Disaster risk reduction is a profitable investment in the prevention of future losses. Effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development. Disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development.

### Which is why...

The Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be a green Platform. For the Platform, all of the necessary documents will be available on the website. This will help to substantially reduce the unnecessary printing of paper. In addition, the Platform will have an App so that participants can digitally access information, including the Agenda, reminders about sessions and logistical information.

The Convention Centre will have recycling bins.

The use of plastic will be reduced during the Platform as participants will be invited to use nondisposable glasses and mugs when drinking coffee and water.