

**Subject:** Comments on Rev 2

Dear Your Excellencies,

On behalf of the Internet Society Accessibility Standing Group, I wish to follow up on my presentation to Your Excellencies on 14th October, 2025 and present the following concrete suggestions to the second revision of the text.

**\*Suggestion 1\***

Paragraph 9. We recognize that ICTs have helped governments and other stakeholders to address risks associated with natural disasters and facilitated humanitarian assistance at times of crisis through more consistent and remote monitoring of environmental and other hazards, enhancing and developing early warning systems and improving preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Add 'accessible', 'person-centred' or 'multi-modal' before 'early warning systems'.

Rationale:

The UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 refers to the need to involve many different stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and response. Below are two examples:

32. 'Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key.'

36 (iii). Persons with disabilities and their organizations are critical in the assessment of disaster risk and in designing and implementing plans tailored to specific requirements, taking into consideration, inter alia, the principles of universal design'

In fact, the active participation and leadership by persons with disabilities in all areas that impact us is the key message for the entire WSIS+20 document. Disability is a cross-cutting issue. This leads to Suggestion 2.

**\*Suggestion 2\***

Paragraphs 78 & 79 refer to women and young people respectively. Please insert an additional paragraph on persons with disabilities based on the fact that our meaningful participation will lead to improved accessibility and digital inclusion.

Suggested wording for a new paragraph:

'Persons with disabilities form at least 15% of the global population and 80% live in developing countries with particular challenges for digital inclusion. We recognise disability as a cross-cutting issue. We welcome the approach taken by the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy for its member agencies and encourage Member States to develop and implement strategies for digital inclusion through disability leadership, strategic planning and management; inclusiveness; programming and organisational culture'.

Finally, I wish to clarify the wording in paragraph 22 for the first sentence to read:

'We note that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities affirms the right of persons with disabilities to have access, on an equal basis with others, to information and communications technologies and systems including the Internet. In addition, the Convention states the need to provide information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost.'

Thank you very much for taking into account these comments.

Kind regards,  
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