

### **3 Zoom meetings to look at:**

- **how to keep people with disabilities safe when wars or other disasters happen**
- **and how to involve and include people better by using Easy-to-Understand communication.**

**Meeting dates 2nd 3rd and 4th May 2023**



Easy Read version  
UN ref no: UN DESA/DISD/2023/EGM  
18th April 2023



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

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# Who we are

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We are part of a United Nations group looking at including everyone.

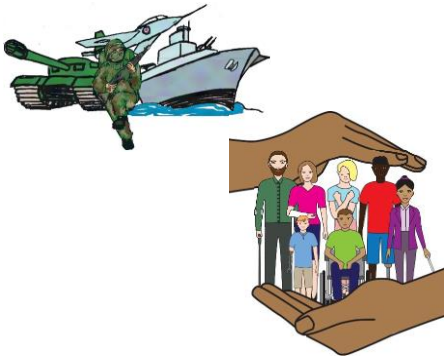
Our section is called the Division for Inclusive Social Development or DISD for short.



We work for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs or UNDESA for short.

# What this paper is about

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This paper gives you information about a meeting on **How to keep people with disabilities safe when wars or other disasters happen.**



It will also look at **How to involve and include people better by using Easy-to-Understand communication.**



Easy-to-Understand helps make sure more people know about the issues and are able to take part and be included.



The meeting will be made up of experts so it will be called the expert group meeting or EGM for short.



The information from the meeting will be used by the UN Secretary General in a report to the General Assembly on the rights of people with disabilities during wars or other disasters and using Easy-to-Understand communication to help people to be included and involved.



## People with disabilities

We know people with disabilities are often left out.



This is even worse during wars or other disasters.



Around the world about 1.3 billion people or 16 out of every hundred people have a disability.



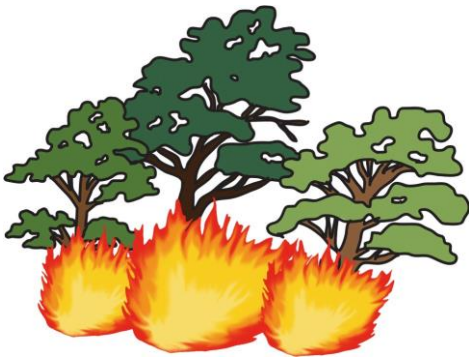
## People's rights

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or CRPD for short, says countries should do all they can to keep people with disabilities safe in difficult times.



This includes:

- wars and other times of fighting



- floods or fires or other disasters



- famines, when people do not have enough to eat.



## Leaving people with disabilities out

Even with these rights, many countries do little about it.



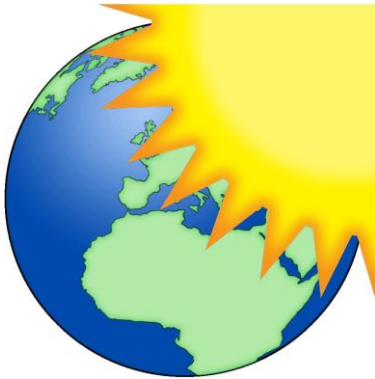
This should start by including people with disabilities in planning for emergencies. So that people's needs are thought about and included.



Plans made without people with disabilities can leave big gaps that puts them at greater risk, pushed aside and forgotten about more.

# The problems people face around the world

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## Climate change

Climate change is causing more and more disasters.



We know people with disabilities are affected more than others in climate change disasters. They can have:

- worse health



- die younger



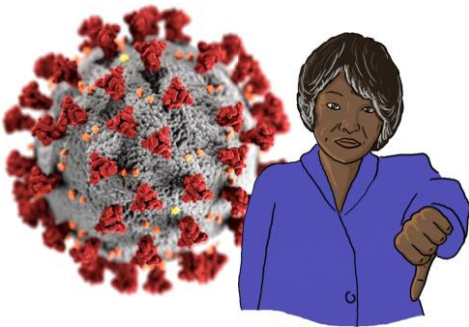
- more mental health issues.





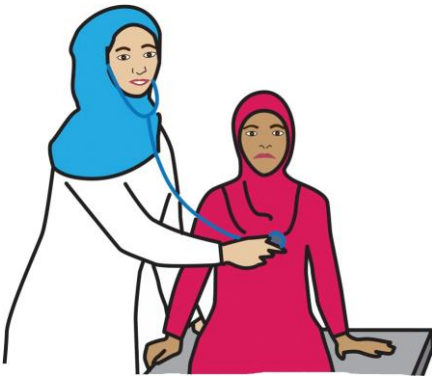
## Wars and other times of fighting

During wars and other fighting, people with disabilities are often hurt more and get less help.



## Covid

During Covid we saw again that people with disabilities were treated more unfairly.

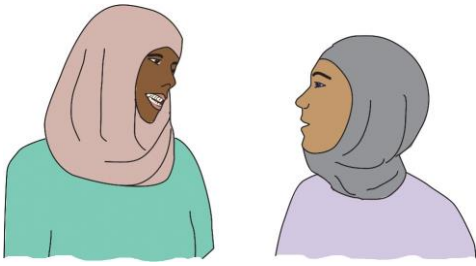


They had bigger problems getting:

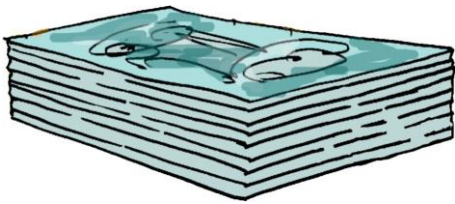
- healthcare



- education



- other important services and support



- money



- seeing other people.

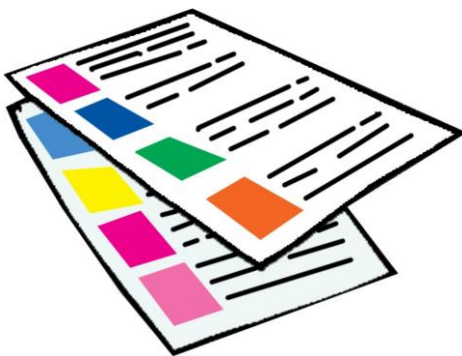
# The Expert Meeting itself

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## Who is coming to this expert meeting and what will they talk about?

Experts invited to the meeting include people who know about things like:

- disability rights
- help and aid in emergencies
- acting quickly to emergencies
- Easy-to-Understand communication.



The meeting is asked to look at 5 main questions:



1. What are the difficulties in making sure people with disabilities are safe and protected in wars and other disasters? And what can be done about this?



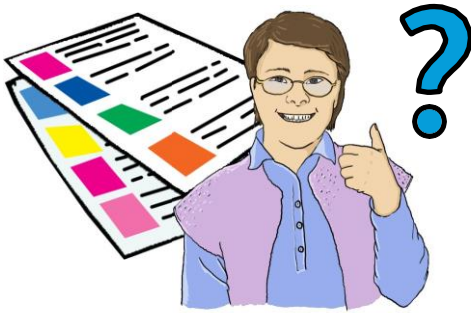
2. What are some good ways of including people with disabilities in planning for emergencies and what countries do?



3. How can we make sure the needs and rights of people with disabilities are still seen as important even when disasters are happening?



4. What are the difficulties with Easy-to-Understand communication and how it is used? And what can be done about this?



5. What are some good examples of when Easy-to-Understand communication has been used? And what can we learn from these?

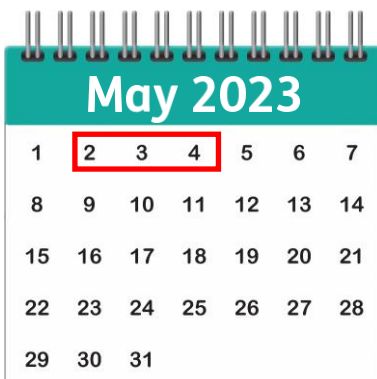


## How the expert meeting will work

The meetings will all be online using Zoom.



There will be support like sign language and CART.



The meeting will be over 3 days.



Each day will be just one session lasting 2 hours.



Each day we will have experts speaking for up to 10 minutes and then people can talk about what was said for the other 5 minutes.



### What happens next?

We will then write up about this work and what we find out for the Secretary- General to write their report.



We hope to put this in Easy Read format.



We will also put what people have said on the meetings website for people to see.

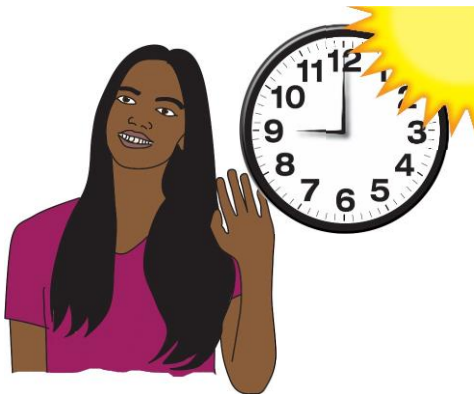
# The Expert Meeting Provisional Agenda

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## Day 1 Tuesday 2nd May 2023

All times are the time in New York USA. It is called Eastern Standard Time or EST for short.



9.00am start. Welcome to everyone.



Rules for the meeting.

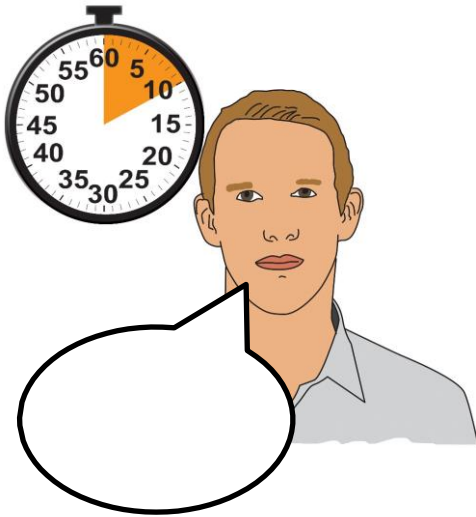


What is happening over the 3 days.





9.20am including people being included when there is danger.



10 minute talk by:

- Stefanie Dannenmann-Di Palma (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)
- Sebastien Jodoin (Mcgill University)
- Elham Youssefian (International Disability Alliance)
- Ricardo Pla Cordero (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).
- Elizabeth Murray (United States Institute of Peace)



After each speaker people can talk and ask questions about what has been said for the other 5 minutes.



11.00am finish for the day.

# The Expert Meeting Provisional Agenda

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## Day 2 Wednesday 3rd May 2023

All times are in New York, USA. It is called Eastern Standard Time or EST for short.



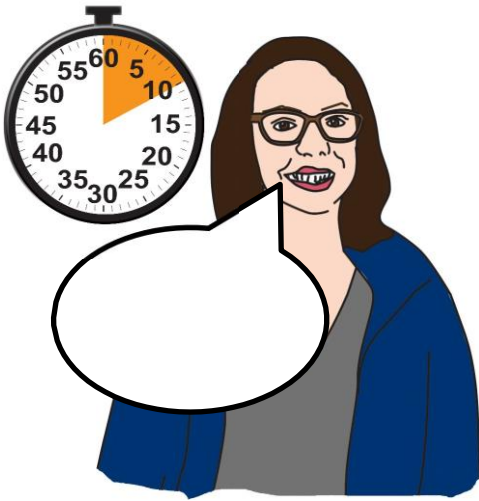
What we know and what we can do in the future to include people with disabilities in times of danger.



9.00am start.



What we learnt yesterday.



10 minute talk by:

- Kirstin Lange (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)
- Sarah Palmer (Elrha).

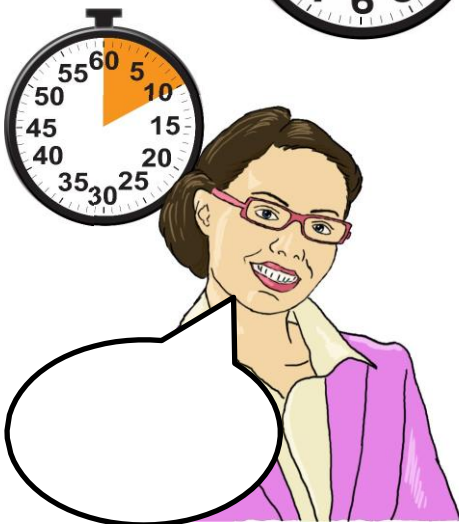


After each speaker people can talk and ask questions about what has been said for other 5 minutes.



10.00am

10 minute talk by:



- Talal Waheed (Christian Blind Mission / Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network)
- Charlotte Vuyiswa McClain-Nhlapo (World Bank)
- Taryn Lesser (Peacebuilding Support Office / Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights).



After each speaker people can talk and ask questions about what has been said for other 5 minutes.



11.00am finish for the day.

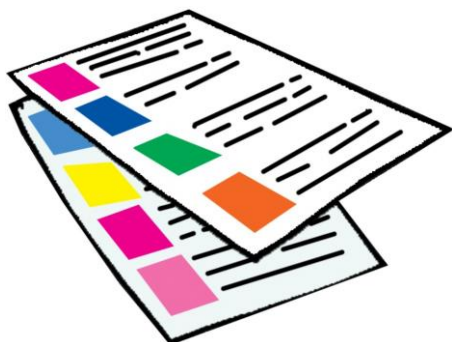
# The Expert Meeting Provisional Agenda

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## Day 3 Thursday 4th May 2023

All times are the time in New York, USA. It is called Eastern Standard Time or EST for short.



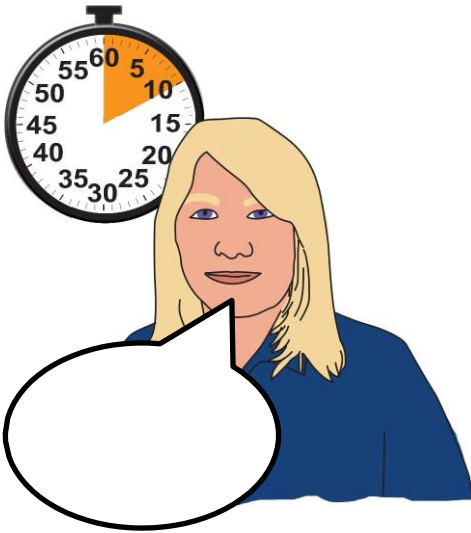
How to let people know and use Easy-to-Understand communication.



9.00am start.



What we learnt yesterday.



10 minute talks by:

- Margarita Serrano García (United Nations Division of Conference Management)
- Ola Abualghaib (The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
- Chaica Sultan (Inclusion International)
- David Evangelista (Special Olympics).



After each speaker people can talk and ask questions about what has been said for the other 5 minutes.



11.00am what we have learnt. And finish for the day.

## Credits



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