

## COP 29 - Resumed High-level Segment

### Disability Caucus Statement

#### **Excellencies, States, Observers, colleagues**

My name is Nadia Hadad, and I am speaking on behalf of the Disability Caucus.

This is a pivotal moment in the global response to the climate crisis. If it is to succeed, everyone must be meaningfully involved.

Persons with disabilities - especially those at the intersection of disability, gender, age, indigenous identity and socio-economic status - face increased risk.

Despite this, we are rarely engaged in making and implementing the policies that are meant to protect us, our families and communities. Our leadership and lived experiences are essential in crafting solutions that benefit everyone.

As we push for a disability-inclusive, human rights-based approach to climate action that is truly effective and sustainable, we request three specific commitments:

**First**, we must have a formally established Disability Constituency within the UNFCCC. This will ensure that persons with disabilities, who represent over 1.3 billion people worldwide (that is 1 in 6 people) can participate in climate negotiations on an equal basis with others.

**Second**, climate finance must provide inclusive support for countries disproportionately impacted yet least responsible for the climate crisis. This means that disability inclusion must be embedded in all funding for mitigation, adaptation and resilience. Only in this way can we build truly accessible infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods, making sure no one is left behind.

**Third**, together – all of us here – we must ensure full accessibility for persons with disabilities in all climate-related decision-making processes, from local to global levels. This includes physical, information, and communication access.

Taken together, these steps are key to creating a truly inclusive, resilient, and just future for all.

Thank you.