

Tēnā koutou kātoa,

My name is Jason Boberg and I am a proudly disabled man from Aotearoa, and a founding member of the SustainedAbility Disability & Climate Network.

This first statement from the Disability Caucus takes place during a global pandemic that, **like climate change**, has considered the one billion people with disabilities on this planet to be **expected losses**.

We have heard over and over that it's only those with underlying conditions that will die from Covid-19.

That is us. That is my community. That is me.

So today I implore you:

Learn from this pandemic. Learn from disabled experiences and wisdom. Don't let our community become **expected losses** in climate change too.

People with disabilities are on the frontlines of climate change, and on the frontlines of eco-ableist responses to it.

When we say that disabled people are left behind in climate change, **do not mistake this for a metaphor**.

When climate disasters hit, disabled people are literally left to die.

This is a choice governments make every time you develop climate responses, policies, and communications without us.

This is also a choice you make when you take action without us.

When you announce policies to slash emissions, **that also** slash our access to society and to our rights.

When you submit weak NDCs that make "1.5 to stay alive" **just a slogan** rather than a reality.

When you host COPs where we **can't even** get in the front door.

Most Parties have already committed to the UNCRPD yet this crucial convention and our rights are barely reflected in your negotiations.

You have a few days left to change this, and you must do so.

1. Include human rights language, and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Article 6.
2. Ensure we can directly access dedicated climate finance.
3. Cement disability rights in ACE and Loss and Damage

Until Parties recognise disabled leadership on climate and uphold our rights, this COP will be critiqued as an exclusionary event where disabled people are missing.

Our voices are missing. Our access is missing. Our rights are missing.
Disability Justice is missing.

Climate change must be: ***Nothing about us without us.***