

# ADDC Bulletin

June 2026 Edition



Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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### **Welcome to our June edition of the ADDG Bulletin.**

June is always an exciting month in international disability equity with the Conference of the State Parties to the CRPD (COSP) in New York.



This year there was the unprecedented development with 2 women leaders from the Pacific elected to the CRPD Committee. Congratulations to Ms Faatino Utumapu Mataafa of Samoa and Ms Villaney Remengesau of Palau on their historic election. Please see below for more information.

At ADDG, we are gearing up for the biannual election of our Executive Committee in July. Nominations for the committee are now open until **Friday 3 July**.

The Executive Committee is the driving force for ADDG to strategically champion disability equity. All Australia-based members of ADDG can be nominated. If you are interested or you know of someone with the expertise and experience to serve on our executive, check out the **[ADDG election webpage](#)** and see below for more information on the election process.

In solidarity,

**Kathryn Bloom**

ADDG Executive Officer

# CONTENTS

## ADDC NEWS

Nominations for ADDC Executive Committee now open	<u>4</u>
ADDC Webinar – Advancing Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities: A Global Movement	<u>5</u>
COSP (19) online side event	<u>6</u>

## IN THE NEWS

Pacific leaders elected to UN CRPD Committee	<u>7</u>
“Be a visionary”: EBU launches awareness video on the value of hiring people with visual impairment	<u>8</u>

## NEW RESOURCES

New EDF Report Calls for Disability Inclusion in Global Climate Negotiations	<u>9</u>
New GEDSI tools to advance inclusive finance	<u>9</u>
COSP19 side event recording: Youth leadership and meaningful participation	<u>10</u>

## CALL FOR INPUTS

New CRPD call for submissions on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies	<u>11</u>
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

IDA: Launch of new OPD-led resources for Inclusive Education in Emergencies (EiE)	<u>12</u>
ACFID National Conference 2026 — October 12 - 14	<u>12</u>
Australasian Aid Conference December 2-4	<u>12</u>

## OPPORTUNITIES

Consultant opportunity: Inclusive Climate Finance & Local Access	<u>13</u>
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## Nominations for ADDC Executive Committee now open

ADDC's governance is led by our Executive Committee, a core representative group that provides strategic direction and oversight to our network. Every two years, Australian-based members elect representatives to these roles, contributing their time and expertise to drive and champion disability equity and rights.

Following a remarkable tenure, we extend our sincere thanks to our current Executive Committee for their leadership over the past two years and with special mention of the elected members: Sally Cobb, Lisa Johnson, Ben Clare, Fhon Williams, Helen Freris, Fifi Rashando and Fleur Smith.

Nominations are now open for the next Executive Committee, from 16 June to Friday 3 July 2026 at 5pm AEST. All Australia-based ADDC members are eligible to be nominated.

Elected positions are appointed for a two-year term. There are three categories for elected roles:

- Representative of an Australian international development organisations
- Representative of other organisations; and
- Individual members.

If you are interested in nominating a member or being nominated, please visit the **[ADDC Election Website](#)** for more information and to download the nomination form. Voting will take place online from 13 to 17 July 2026, with all Australia-based members invited to participate. For further information, please contact Kathryn Bloom at **[kbloom@addc.org.au](mailto:kbloom@addc.org.au)**. If you are unsure of your membership status, contact Melinda at **[mgabuya@addc.org.au](mailto:mgabuya@addc.org.au)**.

Join us in shaping the future direction of ADDC's work and contributing to a more inclusive world. Hear from current members of the ADDC Executive Committee speaking about their experiences and motivation for being a member of the Executive Committee.

### **[WATCH THE RECORDING](#)**



*ADDC Executive Committee (left to right): Kathryn Bloom, Tim Harte, Helen Freris, Fleur Smith, Ben Clare, Will Mezner, Fifi Rashando, Sally Cobb and Lisa Johnson.*

## ADDC Webinar – Advancing Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities: A Global Movement

On Thursday 18 June 2026, we collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO) to host a webinar exploring the WHO Disability Health Equity Initiative and its role in advancing a global movement for health equity for persons with disabilities.



The session introduced the Health Equity Network and highlighted how ADDC member organisations can engage with a growing global community working to improve health outcomes and equity. Discussions reinforced the urgency of addressing persistent health inequities faced by the estimated 1.3 billion people worldwide living with disability, and the need for coordinated, rights-based action across health systems and sectors.

Speakers shared practical insights and examples from the Asia-Pacific region, alongside perspectives on building collective momentum for change. Presenters included Jody Mills (WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific), Dr Pratima Gajraj-Singh (Ministry of Health & Medical Services Fiji), and Dr Nor Bizura Binti Abdul Hamid (Ministry of Health Malaysia).

The webinar was hosted by ADDC Executive Officer Kathryn Bloom and featured an engaging discussion with participants, including a live Q&A. The session was delivered virtually with live captioning, supporting accessible participation.

### [WATCH THE RECORDING](#)



Webinar: Advancing Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities – A Global Movement

## **COSP (19) online side event- Deinstitutionalisation of People with Disabilities: 20 Years of the UNCRPD - From Rights on Paper to Community-Based Reality**

On 11 June AEST, alongside the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) and CBM Australia, we hosted an online side event at COSP 19 titled Deinstitutionalisation of People with Disabilities: 20 Years of the UNCRPD – From Rights on Paper to Community Based Reality.

The session marked the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and provided a timely opportunity to reflect on progress while highlighting ongoing challenges. Despite the CRPD's clear articulation of rights, including equality before the law, institutionalisation remains a lived reality for many persons with disabilities globally.

Discussions highlighted how institutional models continue to restrict autonomy, perpetuate segregation and enable coercive practices that are inconsistent with CRPD principles. These challenges are particularly pronounced for people with psychosocial, intellectual and cognitive disabilities. Evidence from the Asia and Pacific region showed that many individuals continue to experience exclusion, denial of decision-making rights, and limited access to inclusive services, often reinforced by institutional legacies and outdated legislation.

At the same time, speakers noted growing momentum globally and regionally to advance deinstitutionalisation as a key priority for CRPD implementation. As emphasised by Tim Harte, Independent Director of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations and ADDC Executive Committee member, this work remains complex and under resourced and is often misunderstood as a completed reform rather than an ongoing structural transformation.

The event reinforced the need to position deinstitutionalisation as an urgent and contemporary human rights priority requiring coordinated action across legal, policy and service systems.

The session featured speakers from Transitioning Communities for Inclusion Global, Psychiatric Survivors Fiji, CBM Australia, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

**The recording will be shared once it is available.**



## Pacific leaders elected to UN CRPD Committee

Congratulations to **Ms Faatino Utumapu Mataafa** of Samoa and **Ms Villaney Remengesau** of Palau on their historic election to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at COSP19.

This marks the first time two Pacific disability rights leaders have been elected to the Committee, representing a significant step forward in elevating Pacific voices, perspectives and lived experience at the global level.

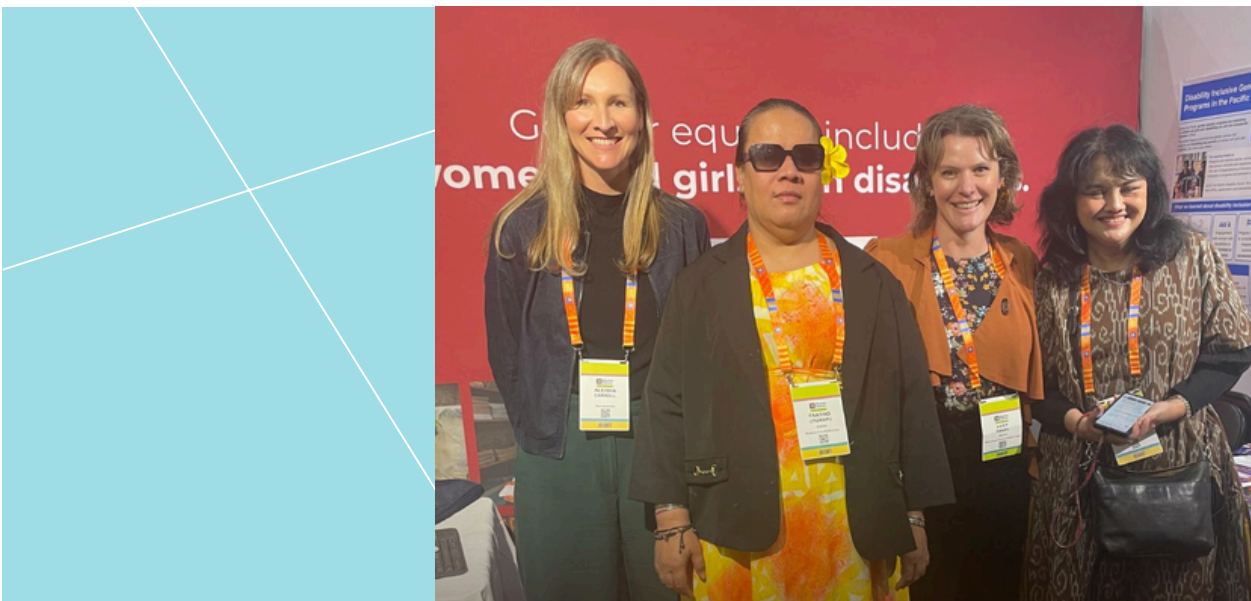
Faatino currently serves as Co-Chair of the Pacific Disability Forum, while Villaney is a former Co-Chair. The Pacific Disability Forum plays a key regional role in representing Organisations of Persons with Disabilities across the Pacific and is a valued partner in advancing disability equity.

This milestone reflects the strength of regional leadership and collective advocacy efforts and highlights the growing recognition of the Pacific's contribution to shaping global disability rights.

ADDC extends its congratulations to Faatino and Villaney and looks forward to their continued leadership in advancing disability inclusion and human rights across the region and globally.

Read more:

**Pacific voices, global impact: Two Pacific women with disabilities make treaty body history.**



*Image: Faatino (centre) pictured with CBM's Aleisha Carroll (left) and Lucy Daniel (second from right), alongside Yeni Rosa Damayanti (far right), Chairperson of the Indonesian Mental Health Association, at the 2026 WomenDeliver Conference. Source: CBM Australia.*

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## “Be a visionary”: EBU launches awareness video on the value of hiring people with visual impairment

The European Blind Union (EBU) released an awareness-raising video highlighting the benefits of hiring people with visual impairment. People who are blind or partially sighted continue to face barriers to employment, including misconceptions and a lack of workplace accessibility.

At the same time, many employers overlook their full potential. Beyond contributing to diversity across teams, people with visual impairment bring valuable expertise, particularly in advancing accessibility and inclusion.

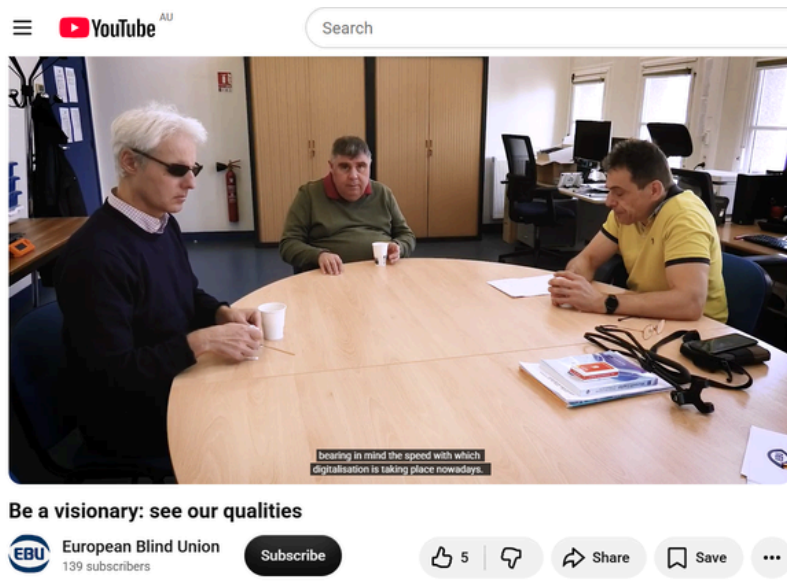


Image: People seated around a table in an office setting, including a person with vision impairment holding a cup while others sit and talk nearby.

The video is available on YouTube in **English**, **French**, **German** and **Spanish**, with captions provided in each language.

## New EDF Report Calls for Disability Inclusion in Global Climate Negotiations

The European Disability Forum (EDF), alongside the Disability Climate Caucus, has released a new report urging stronger inclusion of persons with disabilities in UN climate negotiations.

Launched at the 2026 Bonn Climate Conference, the report highlights ongoing gaps in climate policy, finance, and decision-making, despite people with disabilities being disproportionately affected by climate change. It also showcases global examples of inclusive climate action and calls for formal recognition of persons with disabilities within climate negotiation processes.

As negotiations continue and momentum builds towards the next UN Climate Change Conference, EDF calls on governments, donors, and UNFCCC stakeholders to act now: recognise persons with disabilities as an official UNFCCC constituency; embed disability inclusion across climate policies and finance; and invest in disability-led climate action and leadership. Without this, climate efforts risk falling short of their commitment to be inclusive and leave no one behind.

Read the full report [here](#).

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## New GEDSI tools to advance inclusive finance

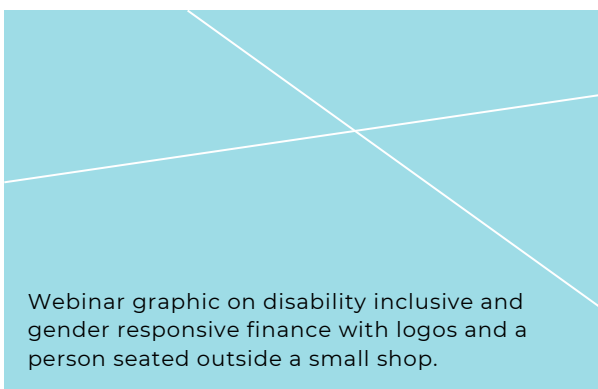
Opportunity International Australia, with support from the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)'s Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), has released a new suite of practical GEDSI resources to help financial service providers embed inclusive, rights-based approaches into everyday operations.

Globally, around 700 million women lack access to financial accounts. In Indonesia alone, an estimated 42 million women remain unbanked, underscoring the depth of financial exclusion and ongoing gender disparities.

Developed in partnership with KOMIDA, OPDs and technical partners, these tools draw on lived experience and field insights to address barriers to financial inclusion, particularly for women and people with disabilities.

Download the GEDSI resource [here](#).

Watch the webinar recording of the launch [here](#).



Webinar: Advancing Disability-Inclusive & Gender-Responsive Finance

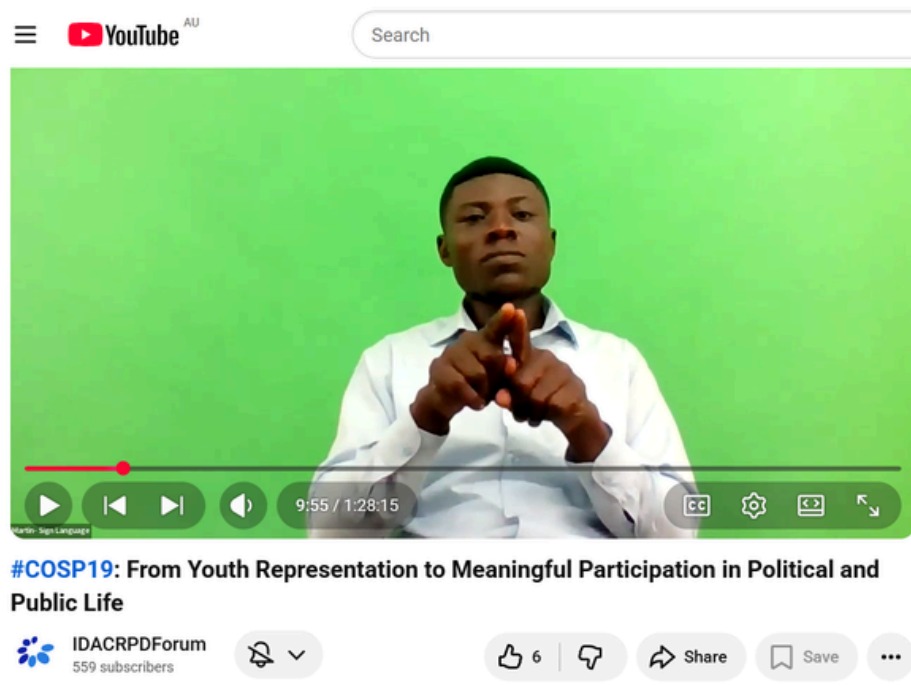
## COSP19 side event recording: Youth leadership and meaningful participation

The recording is now available from a COSP19 side event, "CRPD at 20: From Youth Representation to Meaningful Participation in Political and Public Life," co-hosted by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Movement of Young Persons with Disabilities (IMYD).

The event highlighted the critical role of young persons with disabilities as leaders today, not just in the future, and the importance of investing in youth leadership and ensuring meaningful participation in political and public life.

As Esther Nagey, IDA Youth and Gender Advisor, reflected, when young people with disabilities are trusted, resourced and included as equal partners, they deliver meaningful impact.

If you missed the session or would like to revisit it, you can watch the recording [here](#).



*Image: Man signing in sign language on screen during a webinar about youth participation and political life.*

## **New CRPD call for submissions on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**

On 8 May, the CRPD Committee published three calls for submissions on draft CRPD documents. It has now issued a further call for submissions on two draft General Comments under Article 11, focused on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. These include:

- No.1. Draft General Comment on the obligation of States parties in situations of risk
- No.2. Draft General Comment addressing the Impacts of Situations of Risk

Submissions are due by **10 July 2026**.

Further information, including submission guidelines, is available on the [\*\*CRPD Committee webpage\*\*](#).



**IDA: Launch of new OPD-led resources for Inclusive Education in Emergencies (EiE)**

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) invites you to join the global launch of new OPD-led resources for Inclusive Education in Emergencies (EiE), developed to help humanitarian actors, OPDs, educators, and families turn inclusive education commitments into practical action

The webinar will introduce a suite of tools and resources, including:

- The Learning Through Crisis report
- Interactive learning tools for OPDs and humanitarian actors
- An Accessibility Audit Toolkit
- Family companion resources and case studies

Together, these resources aim to strengthen disability-inclusive education and ensure that every child can continue learning, even in times of crisis.

**Details of the event**

Date: Tuesday 30th June 2026

Time: 3:00pm CEST

Register [here](#). English, Spanish, and French interpretation, along with International Sign and CART. More details [here](#).

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**ACFID National Conference 2026 — October 12 - 14**

ACFID National Conference 2026 will bring the sector together in Canberra on October 12 - 14 to share ideas, challenge thinking, and strengthen collaboration.

With the theme Mobilising the Collective: Reshaping Systems for a Just Future, the conference is your moment to connect, get inspired, and be part of shaping what's next for the sector.

Explore more information on conference, program details, accommodation options and more [here](#). Register your ticket [here](#).

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**Australasian Aid Conference December 2-4**

The Australasian AID Conference (AAC), will be held from Wednesday 2 to Friday 4 December 2026 at the Australian National University in Canberra. The AAC is held annually in partnership with The Asia Foundation, and it has become an integral part of the Australian and regional aid calendar.

The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers from across Australia, the Pacific, Asia, and beyond who are working on aid and international development policy (the AID in the conference title) to share insights, promote collaboration, and help develop the research community.

The call for paper is now open and closes on **21 August 2026 at 11.59pm**. Please see this [link](#) for more information.

## Consultant opportunity: Inclusive Climate Finance & Local Access

CBM Global Disability Inclusion Federation is seeking an experienced consultant, or small team, to lead policy facing research on inclusive climate finance, with a focus on how global climate funds reach national and local levels and how access can be improved for disability organisations.

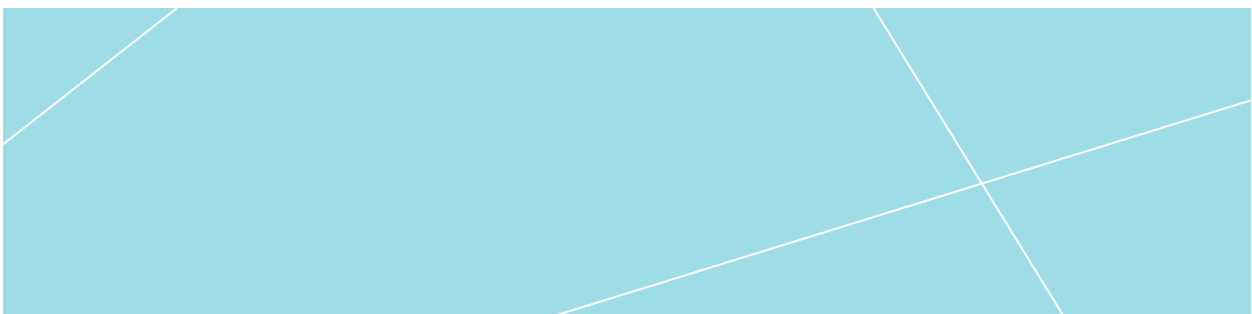
This research will support advocacy at COP31 and beyond, informing engagement with global climate funds, donor governments and national climate finance authorities to advance more accessible, accountable and locally led approaches to climate finance.

The assignment will examine global finance mechanisms across selected countries including Kenya, Indonesia and Nepal, with a focus on governance, access, decision making and the inclusion of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities. It will generate practical, policy relevant recommendations to help shape more inclusive financing systems and contribute to a high quality, accessible report outlining what inclusive climate finance looks like in practice.

The consultancy is expected to be completed by 30 September 2026, with an indicative budget of EUR 20,000.

Applications close on **30 June 2026**.

Apply via this [link](#) and for more information, contact Debbie Gallagher at [Debbie.Gallagher@cbm-global.org](mailto:Debbie.Gallagher@cbm-global.org).



# ABOUT US

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ADDC is an Australian, international network focusing attention, expertise and action on disability issues in developing countries; building on a human rights platform for disability advocacy. To join ADDC (membership is free) or find out more, please visit our website.

This bulletin aims to provide information on Disability Inclusive Development across organizations working to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities both here in Australia and across the world. Generic disability and domestic information will be included in our Bulletins when possible as part of our commitment to disability advocacy and strengthening partnerships; however, our focus remains on disability and development issues.

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**Acknowledgment of Country:** ADDC recognizes the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We acknowledge their resilience, contributions and connection to land, culture and water.

**Disclaimer:** This bulletin is a compilation of other organizations' articles and material. While every effort made is to validate content, ADDC does not endorse all opinions and views contained within the Bulletin.

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## Connect with us



Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

**Advancing disability inclusion in Australia's international development work**