

## Description of the study request

### *Disability inclusive climate and environment action*

#### 1. Topic of the study

In its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) published in 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) addressed the issue of disability in relation to climate change impacts. The report noted that people with disabilities are likely to be disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change due to their increased vulnerability, limited access to resources, and the lack of inclusive disaster risk management systems.

The report also highlighted the need for inclusive approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, which take into account the needs and perspectives of people with disabilities. The report recommended that such approaches should involve the participation and engagement of people with disabilities in decision-making processes and the development of policies and programs.

The goal of the study is to give light on the opportunities and challenges for disability inclusion in climate and environmental diplomacy and its implementation done with Finnish support/ODA recipients. The commissioned study should answer two key questions:

- how is disability inclusion addressed and operationalized in climate and biodiversity negotiations and implementation?
- what (more) could be done to promote disability inclusion in (selected) international decision making and financing fora for climate and biodiversity action?

More specifically, the study should look into:

- How do key conventions and agreements, (e.g., the UNFCCC, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) refer to disability.
- What kind of disability inclusion strategies/guidance do the secretariats (UN Secretariat and UNEP) responsible for related negotiations have
- Accessibility: what kind of strategies are implemented so that persons with disabilities or their representative organisations can participate in and influence the negotiations in a meaningful way.
- To what extent is the implementation of these agreements guided by a systemic level approach to consider disability inclusion and how is it integrated in the following five instruments supported by Finland: Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Asian Development Bank
- What are the opportunities / good practices for disability inclusion advocacy in international climate and biodiversity action

Finland has a long track-record in advancing the rights of people with disabilities in international fora. In recent years, Finland has focused on promoting system-level change. The aim has been that large development cooperation, development financing and humanitarian actors that Finland is partnering with take the inclusion of persons with disabilities into account in their strategies and country-level operations. Most of the disability work supported by Finland is designed and implemented by persons

with disabilities themselves and their representative organizations. This is an important principle under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

More recently, Finland has expanded its policy advocacy on inclusion of persons with disabilities to new sectors, including climate change, peace and security, inclusive trade and development, and anti-corruption work. The successes and lessons learned from earlier work done in promoting system-level change in disability inclusion now needs to be expanded to these new sectors.

## **2. How the study will be used**

Non-discrimination with focus on disability inclusion is a cross-cutting objective of Finnish development policy. It is strongly interlinked with the other cross-cutting objectives of gender equality, climate resilience, low emission development and protection of the environment with emphasis on safeguarding biodiversity.

In the 2022 Global Disability Summit, Finland made five commitments to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, i.e., to champion the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in international partnerships and to support and advocate for disability inclusive disaster risk reduction.

The results of this study are expected to support the efforts of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in advancing disability inclusion in the area of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction, including but not limited to the COP 28 negotiations in November 2023.

Of special interest is how disability inclusion is addressed and operationalized in the negotiations and implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

The focus of the study will be on a selection of key partners and recipients of Finnish ODA in the sector. In 2019 - 2021 some of the top receivers of climate financing provided by Finland were Finland-IFC Blended Finance Climate Program, Green Climate Fund (GCF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and several other multilateral development banks. In addition, Finland supports the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS), UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

## **3. Expected outputs**

The expected output is a study report which should include a literature review and analysis, as well as an executive summary and recommendations. Literature review can include relevant research literature, as well as information and reports from relevant national and international institutions and organizations. Further, a PowerPoint presentation with the main findings should be produced.

## **4. Methodology**

The methods of the study include literature review of relevant partner organizations' existing strategies and reports, and interview of key stakeholders and a focus group discussion with GLAD members, in particular members of climate working group, representatives of organisations of people with disabilities, representatives/disability focal persons in partner organizations under review.

## **5. Reporting specifics and publication**

The final study report should be written in English language and should not exceed 20 pages. The report will be used for internal purposes, but a discussion on its publicity is welcomed. If the study is published, it will be available on the website of the MFA.

## **6. Deadline of the study**

**Preferred timetable:** June – October 2023. The aim is to use the results of the study in developing key messages for the COP 28 negotiations in November 2023 and to possibly present the results of the study at relevant events and networks.

## **7. Preferred research profiles or candidates for conducting the study**

A team potentially consisting of 3 researchers with proven experience/expertise in international climate change and environment convention negotiation processes, rights of persons with disabilities and disability inclusion in an international context. Good understanding of governance and operationalization of multilateral/vertical climate and environmental financing as well as good understanding of multilateral negotiation processes, especially climate negotiations, is an asset.

## **8. Steering group for the study**

The steering group of the study consists of the official responsible of the study at the MFA, an official from the MFA's KEO-02 unit, UniPID, and a lead researcher or coordinator of the research team.

## **9. Expected volume of work in terms of working days**

60 days of expert work. Researchers are asked to estimate and propose the working time needed in their tender.

## **10. Background information**

- The Global Environment Facility <https://www.thegef.org>
- Green Climate Fund <https://www.greenclimate.fund/>
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change <https://www.ipcc.ch/>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change <https://unfccc.int/>
- Convention on Biological Diversity <https://www.cbd.int/>
- The Adaptation Fund <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/>
- United Nations Environment Programme <https://www.unep.org/>
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction <https://www.undrr.org/>
- International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources <https://www.iucn.org/>
- Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities  
<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd>

## **11. Tender instructions for researchers**

- [Tender notice for researchers – general guidelines](#)
- [Instructions for researchers: Commissioned studies on development policy for the MFA](#)
- The tender shall be sent by email with its required attachments in one single PDF document to: [unipid-info@helsinki.fi](mailto:unipid-info@helsinki.fi) by **25 May 2023**
- Inquiries: **Kaisa Kurki**, e-mail: [kaisa.e.kurki@helsinki.fi](mailto:kaisa.e.kurki@helsinki.fi) , phone: +358 50 4621 485