

Preparedness and Response:
Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Times of Emergency
COSP19 Side Event
June 9th, 2026, CR-6 UNHQ

Aligned with the COSP19 sub-theme on resilient societies, and Article 11 of the CRPD, this side event will focus on the crucial aspect of designing emergency preparedness, response, recovery and continuity-of-service systems, with disability inclusion in mind. It will highlight practical approaches to accessible warning systems, inclusive evacuation and sheltering, continuity of support services, meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, and the use of disaggregated data, to strengthen resilience.

Leaning on practical experience, and hearing from the experience of Member States and Civil Society representatives, we will engage on how emergency systems are judged not only by the speed of their response, but by their capacity to reach those who need mediation, accommodations, assistive technology, and continuity of care.

The event will also emphasize the important role of persons with disabilities as meaningful stakeholders who possess knowledge, experience, and capability that must be part of response planning.

Key speakers and panelists:

- **H.E. Ambassador Jonathan Miller**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel
- **Mr. Dan Rashal**, Commissioner for Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities, Israeli Ministry of Justice
- **Michael Fembek**, President Zero Project International
- **Mr. Ahmir Lerner**, Beit Issie Shapiro (NGO)
- **Adv. Ayelet Levin**, Commission for Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities

Guiding questions

1. What best practices, approaches, and successful initiatives have emerged at a national, regional, or global level in guaranteeing crucial aspect of designing emergency preparedness, response, recovery and continuity-of-service systems, with disability inclusion in mind?
2. How can the above-identified initiatives be further strengthened, scaled, and embraced by the global community to advance inclusivity, empowerment, autonomy, and independence of persons with disabilities?
3. What key challenges continue to hinder the full and effective implementation of CRPD principles in times of emergency?

- Please [RSVP](#) by June 7th 2026
- This event is for UN ground pass holders only
- The event is wheelchair accessible and will have live captioning