

## **Final Concept Note for the webinar to present the findings of Policy brief ‘Leveraging assistive technology for inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate action’**

**Time and Date: April last week of 29 April, 10:00-11:00 CET**

### **1. Title of the webinar:**

*This April, in observance of the International Day in Memory of the Victims of Earthquakes, ATscale and UNDRR present a webinar on Inclusive Resilience: Leveraging Assistive Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action.*

### **2. Background**

Disasters and climate change disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and others with functional limitations, largely due to barriers in accessing early warning information, emergency services, evacuation support, and recovery programmes. Although global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities emphasize inclusion, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate action efforts often overlook the role of assistive technology in ensuring equitable access and safety.

Assistive technology is essential for inclusive DRR and climate resilience, enabling individuals to access early warning systems, communicate during emergencies, maintain mobility and independence, and participate in prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and climate adaptation. In essence, assistive technology can make the difference between receiving a warning, evacuating safely, and surviving. It is not a luxury or an optional add-on, but a lifeline for inclusion and resilience, enabling safety, communication, and independence before, during, and after disasters. Ensuring timely access to assistive technology must therefore be a core component of any inclusive resilience plan and an integral part of effective disaster preparedness and response interventions. These technologies range from mobility and hearing aids to communication tools and emerging digital solutions that support access to information and services before, during, and after disasters.

Recognizing this gap, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology, joined hands to develop the policy brief [‘Leveraging Assistive Technology, Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action’](#). Launched at a side event during the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) in Doha on 5 November 2025, the brief draws on global evidence

and stakeholder consultations to examine how assistive technology can be systematically integrated into DRR and climate systems, and presents actionable policy and programmatic recommendations. Building on this launch, the proposed webinar will share key findings, promote cross-sectoral dialogue, and support stakeholders to translate evidence into action for inclusive and resilient systems.

### 3. Objectives of the webinar

- a. Share and unpack the key findings from the policy brief
  - *Identify the challenges faced by assistive technology users in disaster and climate induced emergencies*
  - *Examine the policy and institutional gaps for inclusive assistive technology in disaster and climate context*
  - *Highlight the good practices and opportunities*
  
- b. Discuss diverse stakeholder perspectives on why access to assistive technology for inclusive DRR and climate resilience.

### 4. Target Audience

The webinar is intended for stakeholders at national, regional, and global levels who have a role or interest in inclusive disaster risk reduction, climate action, and access to assistive technology in emergency and resilience systems. This includes, but is not limited to, policymakers, government officials, development partners and donors, humanitarian and disaster management agencies, climate and resilience practitioners, organizations of persons with disabilities, United Nations agencies, assistive technology users and caregivers, advocates and social activists, service providers, and other relevant actors engaged in disability inclusion, assistive technology, and DRR and climate-related initiatives.

### 5. Run of show/Agenda

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda item/programme</b>	<b>Speaker/Presenter</b>
5 minutes-including waiting time	Welcome and housekeeping	Dr. <a href="#">Satish MISHRA</a> Head of Global Programmes
5 minutes	Key note speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Donor/development partner</li> </ul>	GDF-TBC

