

World Institute on Disability

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Chapeau

Looking to the future, we must commit to replacing the call to “build back better” with a commitment to build FORWARD better. Building forward better includes an unwavering dedication to eradicate ableism and eliminate the barriers to inclusion.

Building forward better means ending the cycle of repeating the same mistakes and expecting different results. This is true in all aspects of our global path forward, and especially as we collectively address the impact of our changing climate and other risks that disproportionately impact the persons repeatedly left behind, especially in crises, conflict, and disasters.

The frequency, intensity, duration, and impact of disasters have been increasing at alarming rates. If current global trends continue, the number of disasters per year may increase from around 400 in 2015 to 560 per year by 2030. Climate change is a major contributor, however, for the world’s 1.3 billion persons with disabilities, the disproportionate impact of all disasters results in up to four times as many injuries and deaths as for persons who don’t have disabilities.

Sustainable development must prioritize financing that requires equity, accessibility, and inclusion. Building forward better requires standardizing universal design and accessibility as