

ACCRCC Calls for Inclusive Societies as the World Marks Disability Day 2025

Nairobi, 3 December 2025: As the world commemorates World Disability Day 2025 under the theme “Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress,” the African Coalition of Communities Responsive to Climate Change (ACCRCC) has urged governments, institutions, and communities to dismantle the structural and social barriers that continue to marginalize persons with disabilities.

Speaking during the global observance, Dr. Rosalid Nkirote, Executive Director of ACCRCC, emphasized that a society cannot call itself progressive while leaving any segment of its population behind.

“A truly progressive society is one where every body is valued, included, and supported to thrive,” Dr. Nkirote said. “Disability is not a setback — it is part of human diversity. What holds us back is not our bodies, but the barriers society builds through stigma, disbelief, inaccessibility, and exclusion.”

She stressed that persons with disabilities continue to face disproportionate challenges, particularly in climate-vulnerable communities where poverty, limited infrastructure, and environmental risks intersect to deepen inequalities.

“Inclusion is not a charity. Accessibility is not optional. Equity is not negotiable,” she added, calling for responsive policies and meaningful representation of persons with disabilities in climate action planning at all levels.

Dr. Nkirote paid tribute to the resilience and strength of individuals living with disabilities, along with caregivers, advocates, and allies who continue to champion dignity and equal participation.

“Today, I honour people living with visible and invisible disabilities; caregivers whose love carries families; friends who show compassion without pity; advocates pushing for systemic change; Rotarians and allies who choose service and humanity over labels; and every soul who keeps fighting even when the world misunderstands your strength,” she said.

The ACCRCC Executive Director noted that true belonging must be a universal right, not a privilege reserved for a few. She encouraged communities and leaders across Africa to align policies, public spaces, education, and climate resilience initiatives with disability-inclusive principles.

World Disability Day is observed annually on December 3 to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities globally. This year’s theme underscores the need for societies to embrace inclusivity as a cornerstone of sustainable development and social progress.

“May we continue creating a world where belonging is not a privilege — but a right,” Dr. Nkirote concluded.