International virtual symposium

Ensuring the right to quality inclusive education for persons with disabilities: From commitment to action
25-27 November 2020

Biographies of panellists, speakers and moderators

Opening session: Accelerating efforts towards inclusive education for learners with disabilities
25 November 2020, 12:00 – 13:30 (GMT+1)

Ms Stefania Giannini
Ms Stefania Giannini was appointed UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education in May 2018, becoming the top UN official in the field. In this position, she provides strategic vision and leadership for UNESCO in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda, encapsulated in Sustainable Development Goal 4. With an academic background in the Humanities, Ms Giannini has served as Rector of the University for Foreigners of Perugia (2004 – 2012), being one of the first and youngest women to hold this position in Italy. As Senator of the Republic of Italy (2013 – 2018) and Minister of Education, Universities and Research (2014 – 2016), she developed and implemented a structural reform of the Italian education system, centred on social inclusion and cultural awareness. She has also been closely involved in an advisory capacity with the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation.

H.E. Mr Tiago Brandão Rodrigues
Dr Tiago Brandão Rodrigues is the honourable Minister of Education of Portugal since 2015. A cancer researcher by training, with a PhD in Biochemistry, he has worked as a researcher in universities in Portugal, Spain, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. He has been part of several international scientific societies and has published in important scientific journals. He was the Portuguese Olympic Attaché during the London 2012 Olympic Games. Under his leadership, Portugal has built a new Inclusive Education Law in 2018 which provides some of Europe’s most innovative and genuinely inclusive resources for the future.
Mr Manos Antoninis

Manos joined the Report team in August 2011 from Oxford Policy Management, a development policy consultancy where he led a series of education monitoring and evaluation projects. He holds a BA in International Economics from the Athens University of Economics and Business and an MSc in Development Economics from the University of Oxford. His DPhil was a study of technical education and the labour market in Egypt, completed at the Centre for the Study of African Economies of the University of Oxford.

Mr Eddie Ndopu

Eddie is a South African activist, humanitarian, and public intellectual. He is one of the advocates appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He has also advised organizations such as the World Economic Forum, UN Women and Amnesty International. Eddie holds a Master’s in Public Policy from Oxford University and is currently setting in motion plans to deliver a televised address to the UN from Space, in an effort to inspire greater ambition around the SDGs.

Mr Tibelu Bogale Derseh

M. Tibebu Bogale Derseh holds a PhD in Special Education and has been a lecturer at Addis Ababa University. He is currently working as Chief Technical Advisor on Inclusive Education to the Minister of Education. In his current role, he coordinates the establishment of Inclusive Education Resource Centers throughout the country. He also manages the work of Regional Advisors who provide technical support to Regional Education Bureaus.

Ms Koumbou Boly Barry

Dr. Koumbou Boly Barry was appointed as the Special Rapporteur on the right to education in 2016 at the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council. Dr. Boly Barry holds a PhD in Economic History from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal. She is the former Minister of Education and Literacy of Burkina Faso and has consulted widely for various governments and international institutions on the right to education. Dr. Boly Barry has been an advocate on gender issues in education. She also has ample knowledge and experience in training and research, as a visiting professor at University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, University of Louvain La Neuve Belgium, and as a lecturer at Ouagadougou University, Burkina Faso, Vitoria University, Brazil and Fribourg University, Switzerland.
Mr João Costa
João Costa is the Secretary of State for Education in Portugal. He is a Full Professor of Linguistics at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences at the Universidade Nova in Lisbon. He graduated in Linguistics from the Faculty of Letters, University of Lisbon, and completed his PhD in Linguistics at the University of Leiden. During his studies, he was a visiting scholar at MIT. His area of research is formal linguistics, language acquisition and development and educational linguistics. He has been a guest lecturer at several universities in Brazil, Macau, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.

Mr Jaya Prasad Acharya
Mr Jaya Prasad Acharya is Under-secretary for the Planning and Monitoring Division of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Nepal based in Kathmandu. He holds a M.Phil in Educational Leadership from Kathmandu University. He has had an extended career in education in Nepal and has a background in special needs education. He was a member of the National Special Needs Education Policy Drafting Committee and representative to assist the development of the Nepali Sign language dictionary.

Ms Maki Hayashikawa, Moderator
Ms Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa is the Director of the Division for Education 2030 at UNESCO Headquarters. Prior to her current position, Maki served as the Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education with UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education based in Bangkok. Maki has extensive experience of over 25 years in managing global, regional and country level programmes on inclusive education, gender and education, ECCE, learning assessment and teacher education with UNESCO, UNICEF and JICA.
Session 1: From Legislation to Inclusive Practice: Re-designing policy frameworks, funding and monitoring arrangements across sectors for inclusive education for learners with disabilities
25 November 2020, 15:00 – 17:00 (GMT+1)

Ms Hanna Alasuutari
Dr. Hanna Alasuutari is the Global Thematic Lead for Inclusive Education and Senior Education Specialist in the Education Global Practice of the World Bank. She has worked over 20 years in the field of inclusive education and education sector reforms in classroom, provincial/municipality, national and global levels as well as in academia in Europe, Africa, Middle East and North America. She currently leads and co-leads global, regional and national level developmental, analytical and operational work in education at the World Bank. Hanna is also a co-chair of GLAD Inclusive Education Working Group. She holds a Ph.D. in education from the University of Oulu, Finland.

Mr Mahamadou Manou Oumarou
Mr Mahamadou Manou Oumarou est une personne handicapée visuelle, titulaire d’un master en administration générale, secrétaire général adjoint de la fédération nigérienne des personnes handicapée, point focal Education inclusive à la Fédération Ouest africaine des associations des personnes handicapées (FOAPH). De 2000 à 2020 il a participé à plusieurs forums nationaux, régionaux et internationaux qui lui ont permis de capitaliser 20 ans d’expérience dans plusieurs thématiques comme l’éducation inclusive, la protection sociale, la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées et les Objectifs de développement durable.

Mr David Rodrigues
David Rodrigues is President of the NGO Pró-Inclusão and editor of the journal “Inclusive Education”. David obtained his doctorate and “tenure” by the University of Lisbon. He has a large international experience in projects dealing with Human Rights and Inclusion. David publish 32 books and multiple specialized articles. In 2017, he received the Distinguished International Leadership Award from the Council for Exceptional Children - DISES (USA). Since June 2015, he has been a National Counselor for Education.
Ms Leopoldine Nakashole
Leopoldine Nakashole is an education specialist and occupies the position of Deputy Director responsible for special needs education in Namibia. Before moving to this position, she served as a teacher for five (5) years, a Senior and Chief Policy Analyst and a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for eight (8) years. Leopoldine holds a Master Degree in Business Administration, an Honors degree in Monitoring and Evaluation, an Honours degree in Inclusive Education and two Bachelor degrees, one in Marketing and one in Education. Leopoldine is passionate about children with disabilities and lives by the motto “Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.”

Ms Anna D’Addio
Anna is an Economist by background and has worked as a Senior Policy Analyst in the GEM Report team at UNESCO since March 2017. Prior to this position, Anna worked at the OECD on a comprehensive list of issues ranging from financial education and literacy, inequality, poverty, the intergenerational transmission of education, ageing, social protection, the life course approach to social policy and the decline of fertility, with a particular emphasis on the role of policies. She holds a Ph.D. in Quantitative Economics (European Doctoral Program) from CORE and IRES (the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve), a Doctorate in Public Economics from the University of Pavia and a Master in Quantitative Economics from CORE.

Ms Jennifer Pye, Moderator
Jennifer Pye works as an inclusive education specialist at the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP). She coordinates the partnership between IIEP-UNESCO and UNICEF on capacity development of UNESCO member states for disability-inclusive education sector planning. She worked for 10 years in the education sector at the World Bank where she focused on policy research and equity and access to educational opportunities, in particular for learners with disabilities. While at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Henry Dunant Foundation in Santiago, Chile she oversaw the development of a range of distant education courses in the area of disability, human rights and gender directed at Ministries of Education, Social Protection and Gender Equality across Latin America. Jennifer holds a Master’s degree in education policy and human development from George Washington University.
Session 2: Revisiting the teaching and learning process to ensure access and participation of learners with disabilities
26 November 2020, 11:30 – 13:30 (GMT+1)

Ms Nidhi Singal
Nidhi is Professor of Disability and Inclusive Education at the University of Cambridge. Her research interests are broadly focused on understanding processes of inclusion and exclusion in different educational settings in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. She has published extensively in peer reviewed journal articles and works closely with international agencies assisting them in developing research projects, undertaking programme evaluations and providing evidence-based policy advice. She was (2018-2020) Chair of the British Association for International and Comparative Education (BAICE) and is a Trustee of the Cambridge Commonwealth, European and International Trust, the largest provider of funding for international students at Cambridge.

Dr. Leila Areola
Dr. Leila Areola is an educator, a former Schools Division Superintendent and the current Director IV of the Bureau of Learning and Delivery of the Department of Education in the Philippines. She is a staunch champion for the special learning and inclusion of Filipino learners. She is also one of the most sought Resource Persons invited by many organizations discussing the topic on how students cope with their studies in the new normal environment. Director Areola holds a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Educational Management, Master of Arts Degree in Teaching and Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.

Ms Elena P. Soukakou
Elena P. Soukakou is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School Education, University of Roehampton, United Kingdom. Dr. Soukakou has been working in the field of early childhood inclusion and special education for over 15 years as a researcher, early intervention specialist, and consultant in the United States, United Kingdom, and her home country, Greece. Her areas of interest include classroom practices that support inclusion in early childhood, quality assessment in inclusive programs, and models of professional development in early childhood. Dr. Soukakou is the author of the Inclusive Classroom Profile (ICP), a classroom assessment measure designed to assess and support the quality of inclusive practices in early childhood settings. For her research and work on the ICP assessment system, Elena has been awarded in 2013 the Distinguished Early Career Award of the Early Education and Child Development Division of the American Education Research Association. Elena enjoys working collaboratively with researchers, practitioners, and leaders in the field to improve the quality of education and care for young children with disabilities and their families.
Ms Judith McKenzie
Dr Judith McKenzie is an associate professor in the Disability Studies Division at the University of Cape Town in the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. She convenes the Disability Studies in Education course in the postgraduate diploma in Disability Studies and supervises masters and doctoral students. She was the principal investigator responsible for the successful completion in August 2020 of the Teacher Empowerment for Disability Inclusion (TEDI) project, in collaboration with CBM, co-funded by CBM and the European Union. Currently she is director of the research unit, Including Disability in Education in Africa (IDEA) which aims to promote the inclusion of disability in education at all levels, both formal and informal, in Africa and beyond, to ensure no-one is left behind in the pursuit of equitable quality education and lifelong learning. She is the mother of a young man with Down Syndrome and has an intense interest and engagement with issues surrounding intellectual disability on both personal and professional levels. She views inclusion as an issue of social justice and equity, within an intersectional framework that recognises the overlapping systems of discrimination race, class, disability and gender and other identity markers.

Mr Leon Juma
I am a 23 years old male born with spina bifida living in Kenya. I am currently on an internship at a children’s centre as well as studying for a diploma in Information Technology at college. I am also citizen reporter for Leonard Cheshire’s 2030 and Counting programme which aims to collect data on issues affecting youth with disabilities and advocate the implementation of youth-friendly disability-inclusive policies. I attended a special school mostly in primary and high school but had the chance to interact with students with and without disabilities in college. When I joined college, I was one of two youths with a disability out of 4,000 students. This motivated me to do a lot to change policies in the school to cater for students with disabilities. This included creating a leadership post to advocate for the rights of students with disabilities and resulted in securing accessible accommodation and installing ramps. It has helped us to have a very secure environment in college as we pursue our dream careers and has given us hope of a good future.

Ms Augustine Saga
Mrs. SAGA Augustine is an itinerant teacher in charge of accompanying pupils with visual or intellectual disabilities at the IEPP Tône Est (Regional Direction of Education in the Savannah region of Togo). Having entered the teaching profession through a national competitive examination in 2006, she served as an auxiliary teacher and then as a teacher until June 2015. Having a keen interest in the right to schooling for all children, she is committed to the social and educational support of children with disabilities through the itinerant teachers scheme set up as part of the implementation of inclusive education in Togo.
Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely

Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely is a totally blind motivated woman who holds four degrees, viz: Bachelor of Social Science; Bachelor of Law, Master of Arts in Political Science (Cum Laude) and a PhD in Public Policy. Her doctoral thesis, at the age of 30, focused on South African Legislation, Policy and implementation of Inclusive Education of persons with visual impairment in Basic and Higher Education. She is an admitted advocate of the High Court of South Africa and is the Senior State Advocate managing the projects of Domestic Violence, Femicide and Access to Courts for Persons with Disabilities at the National Department of Justice. She has previously served as a volunteer in several National and International DPOs and NGOs, including serving as the Chairperson of the Disability Chamber of the National Information and Communication Technology Forum of the Department of Telecommunications in South Africa. Dr. Sukhraj-Ely is the First Vice President of the International Council for the Education of people with Visual Impairment (ICEVI); serves as a Board Member of the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) in Geneva; and represents the World Blind Union on the Inclusive Education Task Team of the International Disability Alliance.

Ms Sai Väyrynen

She has a teaching career as a primary school teacher in Helsinki, and she has also worked as a special needs education teacher in Helsinki and Rovaniemi, Finland. The idea of inclusive education became her passion in 1993 – after the need to explore new ways of teaching and learning in her classroom. Sai has almost two decades of service in international education as an adviser to a number of Ministries of Education in developing countries, and experience in the UN system. She has working experience from several African countries, and countries in transition in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. She has lived and worked in Zimbabwe, France, South Africa, Tanzania and Ethiopia, and studied in the UK. Sai’s research interests are related to development of inclusive education, ethnography and critical theory. Since 2015 she has been working as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Helsinki, Open University, and took leave-on-absence after being appointed as Counsellor (education) at the Embassy of Finland, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She is now back at the University of Helsinki, Open University.

Ms Marie Schoeman, Moderator

Marie Schoeman is the Programmes Technical Lead for Inclusive Education of Leonard Cheshire (LC) globally responsible for overseeing inclusive education programmes. She is also an Expert Advisor for the Catalyst for Inclusive Education of Inclusion International. Previously she worked in the South African Ministry of Education from 1997 to January 2018 as an inclusive education specialist and disability focal person. She was responsible for drafting transformative national policy and monitoring systemic change towards Inclusive Education.
Session 3: Moving towards inclusive and safe learning environments, including by addressing violence and bullying against learners with disabilities
26 November 2020, 15:00 – 17:00 (GMT+1)

Prof. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes

María Soledad Cisternas Reyes is the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility (Chile) since 2017. She holds a Law degree and Master in Political Science. Lawyer, Law Professor and Researcher, she was the recipient of the 2014 National Human Rights Award (Chile). Prof. Reyes’s chaired the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from 2013 to 2016.

Dr. Ola Abu Alghaib

Ola Abu Alghaib is the Manager of the Technical Secretariat of the UN Partnership of Persons with Disabilities at UNDP. Dr Abu Alghaib holds a PhD on Disability Social Protection from the University of East Anglia (U.K.) and has over twenty years of experience working on gender and disability in development and supported disability inclusive policies and programmes at global, regional and country levels, including in fragile and crisis affected settings in the Middle-East, Africa and Asia. Prior to her appointment at UNDP, she was the Director for Global Influencing and Research at Leonard Cheshire Disability in London (U.K.), served as the Vice Chair of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), and as a board member of the Disability Rights Funds. Dr Abu Alghaib was recently featured in the Gender Equality Top 100 list of most influential people in global policy in 2019.

Prof. James O’Higgins Norman

James O'Higgins Norman is a clinical sociologist and Professor at the Institute of Education, Dublin City University (Ireland). He holds the UNESCO Chair on Tackling Bullying in Schools and Cyberspace and is Director of the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre (ABC). A co-founding Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal on Bullying Prevention, he was Chair of the 2019 World Anti-Bullying Forum and led a number of research projects on bullying in schools, cyberbullying, and parental involvement in online safety. Prof. O’Higgins was a co-Chair of the Scientific Committee on preventing and addressing school bullying and cyberbullying which produced a set of key Recommendations released at the 2020 International conference on school bullying.
Prof. Susana Fonseca
Susana Fonseca is Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychology, ISCTE-Lisbon University Institute, and Researcher at CIS-IUL in the areas of (cyber) bullying prevention, socio-emotional learning through technology, promotion of empathy with digital tools, and social responsibility in higher education institutions. Facilitator of the Lego® Serious Play® methodology, Prof. Fonseca holds a degree in Special Education and Rehabilitation, a Master’s degree in Cognitive and Behavioural Therapies and a Doctorate from the University of Bergen, Faculty of Psychology Norway. Her thesis was entitled: “Prevention of bullying in schools: An ecological model”.

Ms Megan McCloskey
McCloskey is a human rights lawyer and Senior Fellow in the Disability Inclusive Development Initiative (International Policy Institute) at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, where she is also a Lecturer on gender, disability and law. Megan’s research includes contributions to UN global studies and is focused on assessing the effectiveness of international human rights law and development policy on advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities. She is the co-author of the UNESCO-commissioned study on school violence and bullying involving children and young people with disabilities.

Ms Jackline Olanya Kisitu
Jackline Olanya Kisitu is a children and adults-at-risk specialist. She is the Global Safeguarding Manager for CBM International, a Christian international development organisation committed to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in the poorest communities of the world irrespective of race, gender or religious belief.

Ms Maria Njeri
Maria Nijeri is the Goodwill Ambassador for the Cerebral Palsy Society of Kenya, Lead Citizen Report for Leonard Cheshire’s 2030 and Counting advocacy project, Kenya. A passionate advocate for the rights of persons with cerebral palsy, she facilitates community discussions and uses social media to tackle issues of stigma, diversity and women’s empowerment in Kenya.
Mr Mpho Tjope

Mpho Tjope, born and raised in Delportshoop, South Africa, was the only person with Albinism in his community. A seasoned speaker and recipient of several awards in recognition of his work as an albinism activist, he runs the NGO Albinism Advocacy for Access which focuses on children and youth with albinism as well as their mothers. Mr Tjope was one of the key informants consulted as part of the UNESCO commissioned study on school violence and bullying involving children and young people with disabilities.

Ms Katherine Chamblin

Katherine Chamblin is a fourth-year undergraduate student majoring in Speech and Hearing Sciences and minoring in Disability Studies. She is an Undergraduate Research Fellow in the Disability Inclusive Development Initiative at the University of Washington’s International Policy Institute. In addition to research on the social communication patterns of children with cerebral palsy and their families, Katherine was one of the student fellows supporting the UNESCO commissioned study on school violence and bullying involving children and young people with disabilities.

Ms Rao Lijun

Rao Lijun (饶丽君) is a graduate of Harbin Normal University (China) currently preparing for her graduate exam for a Master of Social Work degree. She is a young woman living with visual impairment and was a member of the focus groups consulted as part of the UNESCO commissioned study on school violence and bullying involving children and young people with disabilities.

Mr Christophe Cornu, Moderator

Christophe Cornu is a Team Leader in the Section of Health and Education at UNESCO Headquarters with 23 years of experience in international development. He has coordinated UNESCO’s activities in the area of school violence and bullying since 2011. He was the Lead Editor of several UNESCO publications on school violence, including Behind the numbers: Ending school violence and bullying (2019). He supported the process to create an International Day Against Violence and Bullying in School, including Cyberbullying in 2019. He coordinated the organization of the 2020 International Conference on School Bullying and was a member of the Scientific Committee which produced a set of key Recommendations released at the conference. He holds a BA in Pedagogy and Foreign Languages, and Masters in International Affairs and Development Studies from the Sorbonne University in Paris.
**Concluding session:** Rebuilding a Stronger Global Disability Inclusive Education System post COVID-19  
27 November 2020, 14:00 – 15:30 (GMT+1)

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**Prof. Mel Ainscow**

Mel Ainscow is Emeritus Professor of Education at the University of Manchester, UK, Adjunct Professor at Queensland University of Technology, Australia, and Honorary Professor of Practice at University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Previously, local education authority adviser and lecturer at the University of Cambridge, his work focuses on making schools effective for all children and young people. His approach is the emphasis he places on carrying out research with schools and education systems to promote improvements. Prof Ainscow is currently working on international efforts to promote equity and inclusion globally. He has recently completed collaborative research projects with networks of schools in Australia, Austria, Denmark, Portugal and Spain. Mr. Ainscow has published extensively in practitioner and international research journals. In 2012 Mr. Ainscow was made a Commander of the British Empire for services to education by the Queen.

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**Mr Joseph Murray**

Dr Joseph J. Murray is President of the World Federation of the Deaf and Board member of the International Disability Alliance. He has been involved with human rights work for two decades as an advocate and as a scholar. Dr Murray is Professor of Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University, co-editor of *Deaf Gain: Raising the Stakes for Human Diversity* (2014, University of Minnesota Press); and *The Legal Recognition of Sign Languages: Advocacy and Outcomes Around the World* (2019, Multilingual Matters) two of several other edited books, journals, and numerous articles on human rights, linguistic rights, and inclusive education.

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**Ms Julia McGeown**

Julia is a Global Inclusive Education Specialist and Team Leader for Inclusive Education at Humanity & Inclusion (previously Handicap International) and has been in post for over 7 years. Together with two colleagues, she oversees over 50 Inclusive Education projects across the world, in 27 countries. She conducts regular evaluation and technical support visits, for example to Togo, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Palestine, Tajikistan, Nepal, Laos, and Bangladesh. She is a co–coordinator of the Inclusive Education Task group in the International Disability and Development Consortium, and an active member of the Global Campaign for Education UK and the GLAD (Global Action on Disability) IE working group. She has 18 years’ professional experience including overseas experience in the education development sector, working in Nigeria and Uganda as.
Ms Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo
Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo is the Global Disability Advisor for the World Bank Group. Her work at the Bank focuses on disability inclusive development under its twin goals to end poverty and promote shared prosperity. As Disability Advisor, she supports operational teams across the institution to ensure that Bank policies, programs and projects are disability inclusive. In 2011, as a well-respected human rights lawyer in disability and child rights advocate, she was appointed by President Obama to lead USAID’s work on disability inclusive development. Prior to this, she worked as a senior operations officer at the Bank in the East Asia Pacific and Africa regions. Earlier in her career, she was appointed by President Nelson Mandela as a Commissioner to the South African Human Rights Commission focusing on social and economic rights, disability rights and child rights. She also served as a project officer on child protection for UNICEF. Charlotte holds multiple Law Degrees in international law and administration from the University of Warsaw, Poland and Cornell Law School.

Mr Robert Prout
Robert (Bob) Prouty holds a Ph.D. in Educational Administration with an emphasis on African Studies. He was head of the World Bank’s Global Partnership for Education and Lead Education Specialist at the World Bank. Bob lived for 10 years in rural areas of D.R. Congo (formerly Zaire) and Rwanda and speaks three African languages. Throughout his career, he has given particular attention to inclusive classroom contexts and learning outcomes—what it takes to ensure that all children have access to good quality learning opportunities.
Concluding remarks

H.E. Mr António Nóvoa
Former President of the University of Lisbon (2006-2013), António Nóvoa is Professor at the Institute of Education. He earned a Ph.D. in History at Sorbonne University and a Ph.D. in Educational Sciences at Geneva University.
Currently, he serves as the Ambassador of Portugal to UNESCO.

Ms Tiziana Oliva
Tiziana Oliva is Managing Director for Global Influencing and Programmes at Leonard Cheshire International. Tiziana has enjoyed a successful career in international development working principally in Africa. She joined the charity from the VSO’s global leadership team, where in her position as director of Africa she had responsibility for operations in 18 countries and three regional hubs. Prior to VSO, she worked in senior leadership roles in Merlin and CARE International, with field work on humanitarian interventions as well as long term recovery and development programmes.

Ms Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa
Maki Hayashikawa is the Director of the Division for Education 2030 at UNESCO Headquarters. Prior to her current position, Maki served as the Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education with UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education based in Bangkok. Maki has extensive experience of over 25 years in managing global, regional and country level programmes on inclusive education, gender and education, ECCE, learning assessment and teacher education with UNESCO, UNICEF and JICA.
Ms Thitiphorn ‘Mind’ Prawatsrichai

Thitiphorn Prawatsrichai has obtained bachelor’s degree in Humanities. After an accident in 2014 and having to use a wheelchair, she has passionately engaged with various organisations working with persons with disabilities in Thailand and has been an active member of international network of organisations of persons with disabilities. She has completed ‘Accessibility and Universal Design’ course from the University of Malaya, Malaysia and on ‘network disability and public policy’ after receiving a scholarship from the ASEAN University. Currently, she is perusing her master’s degree on ‘Education for persons with special needs’. Thitiphorn is currently working at Network of Music and Arts for persons with disabilities in the project “Music Inspires” which aims to enhance the artistic skills and social development of children with disabilities by using musical instruments, arts, and fun activities. She is also one of the active ‘youth lead’ of Leonard Cheshire’s Access to Livelihoods (A2E) project in Thailand.

Ms Diane Richler, Moderator

Diane Richler co-chairs the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) network Working Group on Inclusive Education. GLAD is a coordination body of bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, the private sector and foundations promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action. She was president of Inclusion International, the global federation of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families; chaired the International Disability Alliance (IDA), the federation of global and regional organizations of persons with disabilities; and advised governments and multilateral agencies.

Ms Julia Hayes, Illustrator

Julia Hayes is a British psychologist who is illustrating the content of the conference as it progresses, having already drawn live during our International Forum on inclusion and equity in education conference in Cali, Colombia (2019) and the Global Disability Summit in London (2018). Currently writing up her PhD at the University of Cambridge, UK, she put her career as an inclusive education consultant on hold to research inclusive education and the Colombian ‘Escuela Nueva’ model. You can find out more on twitter and instagram @juliainclusion or email julia@inclusioncreativa.com.