

Global Inclusive Schools' Forum

From practitioners to policymakers

14-15 March 2024

ROOM II, UNESCO Headquarters
Paris, France



Andrey_Popov/Shutterstock.com

Provisional Agenda

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Salamanca Statement that established the fundamental principles of inclusion at school, UNESCO in cooperation with the International Forums of Inclusion is organizing the Global Inclusive Schools' Forum on the theme of inclusion in education.

Inclusive policies are imperative to reach Sustainable Development Goal 4 to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'. This means reaching all learners, under the assumption that every learner matters equally. Despite progress, there has not been the transformation in educational systems, nor the policies needed to translate the promise of Sustainable Development Goal 4 into a reality.

The purpose of the Forum is to convene practitioners from different regions around the world and provide them with a space to share experiences and highlight promising and innovative practices that will be channeled to policymakers and key stakeholders.

Thursday 14 March 2024

Morning Session

09:30 – 10:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
10:00 – 10:20	<p>Master of Ceremony: Ms Florence Migeon, Focal Point for Inclusion in Education, Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality, UNESCO</p> <p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Ms Min Jeong Kim, Director, Division of Education 2030, UNESCO➤ Mr Daniel Sobel, Inclusion Expert, International Forums of Inclusive Practitioners (IFIP)
10:20 – 11:00	<p>Setting the scene</p> <p>Introduction: Ms Maria Renom, Associate Project Officer, Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality, UNESCO and Ms Karen Polak, International Coordinator, Anne Frank House, The Netherlands</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Ms Helena Wallberg, IFIP Europe Lead & Author➤ Ms Justine Sass, Chief, Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality, UNESCO <p>Video: Inclusion in Education, All means all (Global Education Monitoring Report)</p>
11:00 – 12:55	<p>Panel discussion I: Supporting teachers and school personnel for inclusive teaching and learning practices</p> <p><i>Panelists will share expertise, experiences, and innovative approaches to empower educators in fostering inclusive environments.</i></p>
11:00 – 11:05	<p>Short introduction by Ms Valérie Djioze, Programme Specialist, Section for Teacher Education Development, UNESCO</p>
11:05 – 12:00	<p>Topic 1: What works (or does not) in classrooms and schools to build inclusive teaching and learning practices?</p> <p><i>The panel will explore the regional and cultural factors influencing the upskilling of staff and shifting attitudes and perceptions.</i></p> <p>Moderated by Ms Anita Gleave, CEO, Chatsworth Group of Schools</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Ms Carolina Sanguinetti, National Director, Inclusion and Human Rights, National Ministry of Education, Uruguay➤ Mr Ignas Gaižiūnas, Advisor to the Minister of Education, Science and Sports, Republic of Lithuania➤ Ms Shahira Abdel- Rahman, Special & Inclusive Education consultant, Egypt➤ Ms Karen Polak, International Coordinator, Anne Frank House, The Netherlands

<p>12:00 – 12:55</p>	<p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr Gareth Hughes, Activity Manager, European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education ➤ Ms Xueli Abbing, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the Fight against Racism and Discrimination <p>Q&A</p> <p>Topic 2: What is effective in teacher training?</p> <p><i>The panel will consider the minimum requirements for teachers to be effective inclusive practitioners: What are the key points? What works?</i></p> <p>Moderated by Ms Peggy Pelonis, President, American Community Schools, Greece</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Caroline Grant, Senior Education Global Adviser, British Council ➤ Ms Chin Kaylanlakhana, Deputy Director, Special Education Department, Cambodia ➤ Mr Jonathan Eckert, Professor, Baylor University, United States ➤ Ms Freddy James, Senior Lecturer Educational Leadership and Deputy Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Education, The University of the West Indies St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Jerónima Sandino, Consultant, Education, Inclusion & Teachers, UNESCO Santiago Office, Chile ➤ Ms Amélie Lecheval, Activity Manager, European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education <p>Q&A</p>
<p>12:55 – 13:00</p>	<p>Global Inclusion Village presentation</p> <p><i>At the heart of the Global Inclusive Schools' Forum, a special exhibition called the 'Global Inclusive Village' will welcome attending schools and institutions from around the globe to present their examples of innovative inclusive practices.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Tamara Martí Casado, Associate Project Officer, Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality, UNESCO ➤ Mr James Blomfield, Head of Community, IFIP
<p>13:00 – 14:30</p>	<p>Networking lunch and visit of the Global Inclusion Village</p>

14:30 – 17:30

Panel discussion II: Building safe, welcoming and inclusive learning environments

This panel discussion will explore the multifaceted concept of building safe, welcoming, and inclusive learning environments. The focus of this session is to dissect the educational conditions necessary for learners to thrive, taking into consideration the sensory, physical, and psycho-social phenomena that impact the learning experience. This includes examining factors such as accessibility, accommodation, emotional support, and fostering a sense of belonging among diverse student populations.

14:30 – 14:35

Short introduction by **Ms Joanna Herat**, Interim Chief, Section for Health and Education, UNESCO

14:35 – 16:00

Topic 1: What is effective to build safe, welcoming and inclusive learning and build learners' psychosocial competencies?

This session will explore the essential principles and basic conditions that are integral for creating inclusive classrooms where all children can thrive. The aim is to establish a solid understanding of the fundamental elements that contribute to the success of inclusive education.

Moderated by **Mr Remmy Shawa**, Senior Programme Specialist Education for Health and Wellbeing, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Project Office in Johannesburg

Speakers:

- **Ms Donna Wright**, Principal, Bandiana Primary School, Australia
- **Mr Rú Ávila Rodríguez**, Policy and Research Manager, IGLYO
- **Ms Souhair Zein**, Director of Educational Research and Development Center at Al Makassed Association, Lebanon
- **Mr Francisco Javier Amaya**, Deputy Director General of Territorial Cooperation and Educational Innovation, Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports, Spain
- **Ms Agathe Freal**, Education Advisor, Concern Worldwide

Rapporteurs:

- **Ms Elsa Soussan Burzynski**, Project Officer, Section for Health and Education, UNESCO
- **Mr Liu Yong Feng**, Project Officer, Section for Health and Education, UNESCO

Q & A

16:00 – 17:30

Topic 2: Scalable initiatives involving parents and communities

This topic will be discussed in smaller groups. The focus will be on exploring scalable initiatives that actively involve and engage parents and the community in the inclusive education process to equip educators, administrators and stakeholders with practical competencies. Participants will leave with actionable insights to foster meaningful partnerships between schools and families, ultimately enhancing the overall educational experience for every learner.

Room II – Moderated by **Ms Carmen Dionne**, Professor, Department of Psychoeducation and Social Work at University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières, Canada. UNESCO Chair for Early Childhood and Inclusive Early Intervention

Speakers:

- **Ms Mónica Cortés**, Coordinator, Families for Change Network, Inclusion International Representative, Colombia

- **Mr Praptono**, Secretary Director General of Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, and Secondary Education, Indonesia
- **Ms Maha Khochen**, Former Practitioner, Inclusive Education Specialist, Education Cannot Wait, Lebanon
- **Ms Nilda B. Delgado**, Founder and Director of MindHaven School Inc., The Philippines

Rapporteurs:

- **Mr Erik Ellefsen**, Director of Networks and Improvement, Baylor University, United States
- **Ms Liana Ghent**, Executive Director, International Step by Step Association (ISSA)

Q&A

Room VI – Moderated by **Ms Claudia Mora Corredor**, Whole School Educational Support Head, Colombia

Speakers:

- **Ms Aida Hrnjic**, Director, Center for supporting children with developmental challenges, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr Hatem Mahmoud**, Director, Learning & Development – Advanced Learning Company, Saudi Arabia
- **Ms Heather Olson**, Education Programme Specialist - Corrections Education Lead, United States
- **Mr Martin Bloomfield**, Director, Dyslexia Bytes, United Kingdom

Rapporteurs:

- **Ms Cecilia Irazoqui**, DEI Practitioners and learning consultant, Uruguay
- **Ms Helen Claus**, Director, Inclusion4all, The Netherlands

Q&A

Room VII – Moderated by **Mr Leo Thompson**, School Support and Evaluation Officer, Council of International Schools

Speakers:

- **Ms Cheryl Chalkley**, Headteacher, Mersham Primary School, United Kingdom
- **Ms Jasmene Frans**, Teacher, Globally Empowered Network, South Africa
- **Mr Jon Springer**, Executive Facilitator, Parents Alliance for Inclusion, United States
- **Ms Clemmie Stewart**, Executive Principal, Beech Hall School Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Rapporteurs:

- **Ms Jane Clarke**, Chair, Fellowships - IFIP, United Kingdom
- **Ms Elizabeth Shaffer**, Founder of Therapeutic Innovations International, Belgium

Q&A

Knowledge Café Space – Moderated by **Mr J Grange**, Musician, International Public Speaker, Neurodiversity Advocate and Diversity & Inclusion Champion, United Kingdom

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Lindsay Jones, CEO, Center for Applied Special Technology, United States ➤ Ms Eva Deak, Managing Director, Partners Hungary, International Step by Step Association (ISSA) ➤ Ms Fatma Wangare, Regional Coordinator, Inclusion Africa ➤ Mr John Cullinane, Principal, St Anne’s Secondary School, Ireland <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr Jon Turner, Principal, Baobab College School, Zambia ➤ Mr Sylvain Seguy, Associate Project Officer, Section for Health and Education, UNESCO <p>Q&A</p>
--	--

Friday 15 March 2024

Morning Session

09:30 – 10:00	Coffee
10:00 – 10:10	<p>Recap of Thursday’s sessions</p> <p><i>This session serves as a valuable opportunity to consolidate the wealth of information shared on Thursday, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among participants. It aims to leave attendees inspired, informed, and ready to carry the momentum into the concluding day of the Global Inclusive Schools’ Forum.</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Ms Simona D’Alessio, Headteacher, Istituto Comprensivo Octavia, Italy</p>
10:10 – 11:20	<p>Panel discussion III: Ensuring access to assistive technologies and inclusive ICTs</p> <p><i>This session will consider the critical topic of ensuring access to assistive technologies and inclusive information and communication technologies (ICTs) for all. The focus is on exploring the benefits and limitations of inclusive technology, with a particular emphasis on equitable access across different countries. Success stories and case studies from around the world where inclusive technology has made a significant impact will be showcased, and innovative approaches, collaborative initiatives, and the transformative power of technology in diverse educational settings will be highlighted.</i></p> <p>Chair: Mr Jason Zhou, Director, Think Academy, UK</p> <p>Short introduction by Ms Serenella Besio, Professor, University of Bergamo, Italy</p> <p>Moderated by Ms Natalia Amelina, Senior National Project Officer in Education, UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Lira Samykbaeva, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Kyrgyz Republic ➤ Mr Wilfried Kainz, Head of Research, Zero Project ➤ Ms Betelhem Dessie, CEO, iCog - Anyone Can Code, Ethiopia ➤ Mr David Lester, Group Learning Services Director, Nisai Group ➤ Ms Julia McGeown, Head of Inclusive Education, Humanity & Inclusion <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr Qahraman Kakar, Associate expert, University of Paris Gustave Eiffel, France

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Sharon White, Director, Educating Horizons, United Kingdom <p>Q&A</p>
11:20 – 12:30	<p>Panel discussion IV: Inclusion beyond school: The transition from school to the labour market</p> <p><i>This panel will explore the pivotal topic of transitioning from school to the labour market. The focus is on understanding how schools and workplaces can coordinate efforts to enhance employability and facilitate smoother transitions for learners entering into the workforce. The session will delve into key barriers that schools and employers need to be aware of and overcome and share promising practices and success stories from collaborations between schools and employers that have successfully facilitated smooth transitions.</i></p> <p>Moderated panel by Ms Katerina Ananiadou, Programme Specialist, Section of Youth Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Maïmouna Kanté, Director of Technical Education and Vocational Training, Ministry of Vocational Training, Apprenticeship and Integration, Senegal ➤ Ms Michal Rimon, CEO, Access Israel Organization, Israel ➤ Ms Céline Trublin, Economic Inclusion Specialist, Fédération Handicap International, Humanity & Inclusion ➤ Mr Jeremy A. Cruz, Principal, Legazpi City National High School, The Philippines ➤ Ms Odette Agontinglo, Assistant Training Advisor, Engineering and Training Operations Department, Continuing Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Development Fund, Benin <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr Roger Mitchell, Headteacher, Ripple Primary School, United Kingdom ➤ Ms Kristi Troutman, Occupational Therapist, Bridges to Benchmarks, Netherlands <p>Q&A</p>
12:30 – 12:45	<p>Key recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr Richard Ingram, Researcher, University of Exeter, United Kingdom ➤ Ms Simona D’Alessio, Headteacher, Istituto Comprensivo Octavia, Italy
12:45 – 13:00	<p>Key takeaway and closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr Daniel Sobel, Inclusion Expert, International Forums of Inclusive Practitioners (IFIP) ➤ Ms Justine Sass, Chief, Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality, UNESCO
13:00	<p>Networking lunch</p>