



Every learner matters and matters equally

Making education truly inclusive

High-level policy dialogue on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Salamanca Statement

13 March 2024, 14:00 – 17:00

UNESCO Headquarters

Paris, France



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Biographies of speakers and moderators

Opening

Ms Stefania Giannini



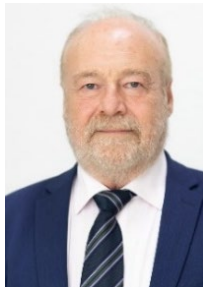
Stefania Giannini has served as Assistant Director-General for Education for UNESCO since 2018 and also serves as Advisor to the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation. She served in the Senate of the Republic of Italy from 2013 to 2018 and as the country's Minister of Education, Universities and Research from 2014 to 2016. She began her career as a professor of linguistics and was Rector of the University for Foreigners of Perugia.

H.E. Mr David Moinina Sengeh



H.E. Dr David Moinina Sengeh serves as the Chief Minister and the Chief Innovation Officer of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Before this, he served as Sierra Leone’s Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education from 2019 to 2023, and before this, a Research Manager at IBM Research Africa, leading a healthcare team that designed and implemented AI-enabled systems for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of disease.

Mr José Manuel Bar Cendón



José Manuel Bar Cendón In 2008 he was elected deputy in Congress (until 2011), during which time he held the positions of Secretary of the Commission for Comprehensive Disability Policies, Member of the Interior and Development Commissions and assigned to the Commissions of Education, Constitutional and Mixed for the European Union. In August 2021, he was appointed Director General of Educational Planning and Management at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training and in 2022 he became the Secretary of State for Education.

Master of ceremony

Ms Justine Sass



Justine Sass is the Chief of the Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. Over the past 25 years, she has championed gender equality, girls’ and women’s empowerment, and the right to education and health in posts at UNESCO and other UN bodies, non-profit organizations and U.S. government agencies. She believes that we all have a role to play in ensuring an inclusive and equitable society that leaves no one behind.

Setting the scene

Ms Anna Cristina d’Addio



Anna Cristina d’Addio is an Economist by background and has worked as a Senior Policy Analyst in the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report team at UNESCO since March 2017. Prior to this, 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.

Ms Amanda Watkins



Amanda Watkins is Assistant Director with the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education. She is responsible for the content co-ordination and implementation of the Agency's programme and leads on direct support to 31 Agency member countries to develop their policy frameworks for inclusive education. Amanda trained as a teacher of children with severe learning difficulties before moving into mainstream support, local government and then teacher education roles.

Mr Valtencir Mendes



Valtencir Mendes is presently the Chief of Education and Senior Education Programme Specialist at UNESCO's Santiago Office. Prior to this, he was UNESCO's Global Education Coalition's lead for the Latin-American and the Caribbean (LAC) and Fundraising and international Relations Officer at UNESCO Headquarters. Prior to joining UNESCO, he was an International Association of Universities' Member of the Expert Advisory Group on Higher Education and worked at the Fundació Jaume Bofill.

Moderator

Ms Justine Sass



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Interactive session

Mr Marc Angelier



Fervent defender of Braille and co-author of specialized teaching methods, Marc Angelier travels the world to train teachers in techniques specific to visual impairment and to make inclusive schooling for all a reality! Since 2019, he is in charge, with Marie Oddoux, of the implementation of the inclusive concept based on the lego Braille Bricks game for the LEGO Foundation.

Ms Marie Oddoux



With a background in occupational therapy and a degree in low vision rehabilitation, Marie Oddoux has written Braille books for children and methods to teach through touch. Today, she is an expert in braille and inclusive education at the LEGO Foundation, responsible for the LEGO Braille Bricks concept.

Moderated high-level roundtable I – From Salamanca until today: Progress and persistent challenges

Mr Mel Ainscow



Mel Ainscow is Emeritus Professor, University of Manchester, Professor of Education, University of Glasgow, and Adjunct Professor at Queensland University of Technology. A long-term consultant to UNESCO, he is internationally recognized as an authority on the promotion of inclusion and equity in education. His new book 'Developing Inclusive Schools: Pathways to Success' is published by Routledge.

Ms Isabel Flores



Isabel Flores has actively involved herself in identifying problems linked to the teaching profession, such as the projected teacher shortage, and designing policies to address future needs. She is also highly interested in how issues of inclusion are translated from political rhetoric to actionable plans within schools. Currently, she serves as the executive director of the public policy institute in Portugal, working to build bridges between research and public policy stakeholders. In addition, she is the Portuguese delegate at CERI (OECD).

Mr Diego Paz



Diego Paz is Vice Minister of Education of the Republic of Ecuador. He is a professional passionate about education with more than 15 years of experience in the educational field. He has worked as a secondary and university teacher, as well as a consultant in several civil society and United Nations organizations, both national and international in education, human rights and inclusion. He has extensive experience in public management and educational policy.

Ms Abossèdé Paulette Okpeicha



Abossèdé Paulette Okpeicha has been Secretary-General of the Benin National Commission for UNESCO since September 2022. She has been teaching English-speaking African literature in the university's English department since 2007. Ms Okpeicha also learned sign language at the Collège des Sourds et Audiants du Bénin in Porto-Novo for 22 years.

H. E. Mr Put Samith



Put Samith has been working for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport more than 30 years. For this period, he has worked in different fields like a teacher, planning, directorate general of education. Currently, he is an undersecretary of state in charge of planning, early childhood, and quality assurance.

Mr Ignas Gaižiūnas



Ignas is currently serving as an Advisor to the Minister of Education, Science, and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania. With a background in Physics and a career in teaching, inclusive education is one of the policy areas overseen by Ignas. Over the past few years, Ignas has spearheaded crucial projects aimed at implementing inclusive education policies in Lithuania. At the core of Ignas's beliefs is the conviction that it is both the duty of teachers and the government to cultivate an environment where every student can fully realize their potential.

Moderator

Ms Kaukab Stewart



Kaukab Stewart was born in Pakistan and moved to the UK when she was six years old. She attended Bellahouston Academy in Glasgow, Moray House School of Education in Edinburgh and Napier University. Before being elected, she worked as a primary school teacher for nearly 30 years. She was elected to represent Glasgow Kelvin at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election. She was Vice Convenor of the Education, Children and Young People's Committee before becoming Convenor of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee. She is the first woman of colour in the Scottish Government.

Moderated high-level roundtable II: Inclusion to ensure a better future in a fast-evolving world

Ms Lira Samykbaeva



Lira Samykbaeva as the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic for Digitalization oversees initiatives focused on integrating technology into education to enhance learning outcomes and improve administrative processes. Her expertise lies in leveraging technology to create innovative and inclusive solutions that address the evolving needs of the education sector. She's committed to driving digital innovation in education and continues to champion initiatives that pave the way for a more digitally inclusive and accessible education system.

Ms Kiki Yuliati



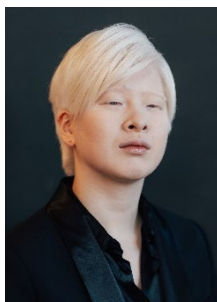
Dr. Ir. Kiki Yuliati, M.Sc is currently the Director General of Vocational Education at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia. Prior to assuming this role, she dedicated her expertise to the National Education Standards Agency for 7 years. She has been actively contributing to the enhancement and administration of Higher Education development programs since 2005 as a distinguished reviewer for the Higher Education Council. Dr in Agricultural Industrial Technology, her extensive academic background has undoubtedly laid the foundation for her contribution to the education sector in Indonesia.

Mr Graham Lang



Graham Lang, who became Education Cannot Wait Deputy Director in March 2023, initially served as Chief of Education since October 2017. He expanded ECW's education portfolio across 40 crisis-affected nations. With over 25 years of experience in education programs within development and humanitarian contexts, he previously worked with NGOs in Cambodia, China, Dominica, and Thailand, and later with UNICEF in Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Laos, Madagascar, and Rwanda. Currently stationed at the New York HQ, he supports the ECW Executive Director, oversees governance structures, and monitors country-level investments.

Ms Xueli Abbing



Xueli Abbing is a Dutch model. Born in China and abandoned by her parents because of her albinism, she was adopted and grew up in the Netherlands. Her unique beauty led her to the modeling industry at age 11, providing a platform to champion diversity, raise awareness of albinism and inspire others to embrace their natural beauty, featuring in Vogue and BBC and collaborating with top photographers and fashion brands. She has also participated in Oxford University's inclusion lecture series and Dutch TV programmes promoting albinism awareness among young people.

Ms Maïmouna Kanté



Maïmouna Kanté is the Director General of TVET at the Ministry of Vocational Training in Senegal since January 2023. She has been studying this field since 1989. She was promoted by decree to Director of ENFEFS School for Home and Social Economics and Training on 14 June 2017. She is also Chair of the Association Synergies pour une émergence citoyenne / "ensemble pour notre terroir". She was awarded Knight of the Order of Merit 26 March 2018.

Moderator

Ms Min Jeong Kim



Min Jeong Kim has over 25 years of experience in educational development, global advocacy, media and communication. Presently the Director of Education 2030 Division, she served as UNESCO Head of Office and Representative in Jordan and Head of UNESCO Office in Myanmar. She previously worked in Tanzania, as Chief of UNESCO Education Section for the Indian Ocean countries; and in Lebanon as the UNESCO Regional Programme Coordinator for Education in the Middle East and North Africa. Before UNESCO, she was a journalist in the Republic of Korea.

Official closing and key highlights

Mr Richard Ingram



Richard Ingram is a researcher at the University of Exeter's School of Education. He has worked as a teacher for many years, and as a consultant for UNESCO, IIEP-UNESCO, and the World Bank, specializing in inclusive education and systems thinking. He is also the creator and host of the Goal 4: Education for All podcast.

Ms Justine Sass



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Cultural event: Conversation with my daughter

Cie SmARTS



With Cie SmARTS, international tap-dance choreographer Roxane Butterfly and her teenage daughter Zuly (who has Down syndrome), team up to make their artistic expertise in the field of tap-dance and theatre accessible to all. Cie SmARTS is a not-for-profit organization currently based in Paris. The company tours internationally offering workshops and performances.