

ENGLISH



**Global  
Forum For  
Inclusion**  
Partnering For Action

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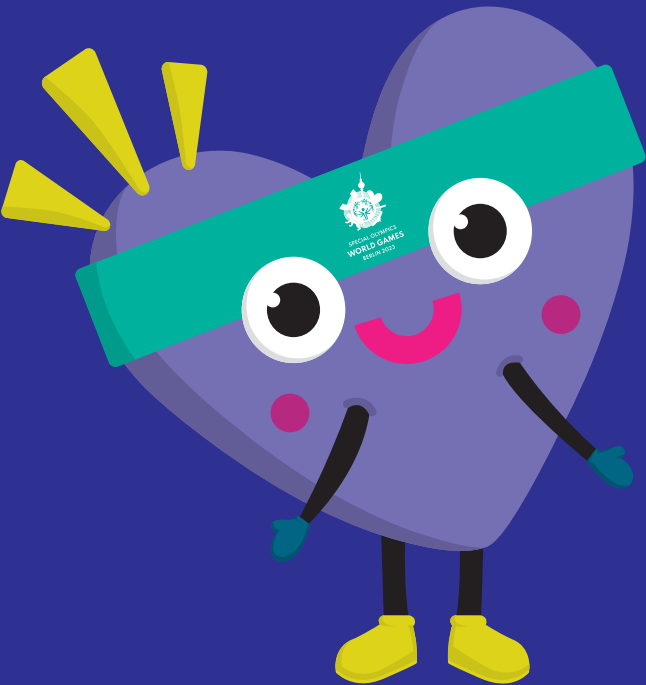
#UnbeatableTogether

# Global Forum for Inclusion - Partnering for Action

[WWW.BERLIN2023.ORG/EN](http://WWW.BERLIN2023.ORG/EN)

FUNDED BY





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## By the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community



Nancy Faeser

Dear Participants,

“Do it well, finish it properly, and move on.” This quote is attributed to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of the Special Olympics. With these words she calls on us to do our best and to not give up before we have reached the finishing line.

This is why we are here today: to bring together our ideas and help build a shared, inclusive future. And so I would like to warmly welcome you to the first Global Forum for Inclusion organised as part of the 2023 Special Olympics World Games.

The Special Olympics stand for more than just the participation of people with intellectual disabilities in sports. They stand for an inclusive world. We all know about the extraordinary success of this inclusive movement; we admire how far it has come and the milestones it has reached. But we also know that the end of the road to inclusion has not yet been reached.

## WELCOME MESSAGE

We have come together today to create a wide safety net that will not break, and that does not end where our responsibilities stop. A net that is tight and strong, supported by the goal of achieving equal participation of people with so-called disabilities in all areas of society.

#UnbeatableTogether – this motto of the Special Olympics World Games can guide us at the Global Forum for Inclusion as we work towards reducing barriers and building bridges. We have come together today to discuss and develop shared visions to achieve this.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy Faeser  
Federal Minister of the Interior and Community

## By Special Olympics International



Mary Davis



Nyasha Derera

Dear Global Forum participant,

Welcome to Special Olympics World Games 2023!

We are on the threshold of a world inclusive of all young people.

Special Olympics athletes know what it takes for an opportunity to compete at World Games—rigorous training regimens, skilled coaches, and adequate facilities.

We know what it takes to create a world inclusive of young people with all abilities – community-based programming, investments in education, and international, interdisciplinary cooperation.

Participating in the Global Forum for Inclusion is joining the delegation of champions advocating for policies and programs that smash stigma and eradicate the fear of difference.

## WELCOME MESSAGE

I encourage you to draw inspiration from the Special Olympics athletes competing at the World Games as you consider your role in expanding the transformative power of inclusion. They have dug deep for determination when the world was indifferent to them.

Millions of brilliant, talented individuals have been left out of global initiatives for health, education, poverty reduction, and basic human rights. Just as the Berlin wall marked the beginning of unification for this city, these World Games mark the beginning of belonging for people left on the margins.

An unprecedented 11-partner media alliance will broadcast the World Games around the world, and it is up to you to maintain the momentum of the Games in your own spheres of influence. But you are not alone in this quest. The people you will meet at the Global Forum for Inclusion are also on this journey, and together we will tear down the walls of exclusion.

You are the leaders Special Olympics athletes need.

You are the leaders the world needs.

You are #UnbeatableTogether.

Sincerely,



Mary Davis  
Chief Executive Officer



Nyasha Derera  
Global Athlete Congress

## By Special Olympics Germany/ Local Organizing Committee SOWG Berlin 2023



Sven Albrecht



Mark Solomeyer



Christiane Krajewski

Dear participants of the Global Forum for Inclusion – Partnering for Action

It is with immense pleasure that we welcome you to the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 and more precisely to the Global Forum for Inclusion.

Together with you, we would like to develop new ideas and concrete steps so that inclusion can be lived in everyday life. The Games in Berlin are the Games from athletes for athletes.

It is our vision to shape a society in which children and youth grow up inclusively. We are therefore very happy that with the Global Forum and together with the athletes and youth leaders we are creating another groundbreaking inclusive format.



## WELCOME MESSAGE

With the Berlin Declaration we want to contribute to enhancing participation at local level, to improving the access to education and sport offers and to greater consideration of the needs of people with disabilities in the context of international cooperation and development work.

We want to create encounters to tear down the walls in people's minds. But to be successful, we need you. Therefore, we are looking very much forward to the exchange with you during the days of the Global Forum and then on during the Special Olympic World Games.

Let us act together - #UnbeatableTogether for an inclusive society!

Sincerely yours,



Sven Albrecht  
Federal Manager  
Chief Executive Officer LOC Berlin 2023



Christiane Krajewski  
President



Mark Solomeyer  
Vice President  
Athlete Spokesperson

## The Berlin Declaration

### **Inclusive Education and Communities through Sports Global Game Changer for Youth of All Abilities**

WHEREAS the participants in the Global Forum for Inclusion Partnering for Action, the first ever international congress happening during Special Olympics World Games which brings together participants of the Global Athlete Congress and the Global Youth Leadership Summit with representatives of national governments, international organizations, NGOs and researchers, have assembled in Berlin, Germany to celebrate the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games, the largest global sporting event of the year, and who also came to the city to join forces in the quest of driving inclusion forward around the world, leaving a fundamental legacy with this Berlin Declaration inviting every single person in the world to join by signing;

WHEREAS the athletes of Special Olympics, competing in year-round sports training and competition in communities around the world stand firm in their hope of a world where all communities offer sports for people with intellectual disabilities and all schools are welcoming of a diversity of talents and gifts;

WHEREAS governments, who have agreed to underscore the need for urgent action to propel inclusive education for students of all ability levels, with a particular focus on students with intellectual disabilities, and in view that improving local sports participation and well-being strengthens communities in general;

## THE BERLIN DECLARATION

WHEREAS industry leaders recognize the importance of investing in inclusive education as a material component of Environmental, Social, and Governance performance and credibility, a key to unlocking potential and performance, and a precondition for reaping the benefits of diverse workforces;

WHEREAS global development stakeholders recognize and reaffirm the need for increased investment in inclusive education for students of different abilities, especially for women and girls, as well as the role that inclusive sports plays in every corner of the world in the academic journey, in values education that fosters social cohesion and promotes human rights, in developing core skills for life and work in the 21st century, and for lifelong health;

WHEREAS academic leaders are committed to supporting research, evaluation, and analytics to strengthen inclusive education especially through sports programming for students of all abilities;

WHEREAS global philanthropy leaders anticipate investing in the expansion, through sports, of inclusive communities and inclusive education and the role that whole-school engagement can play in strengthening school climates for all students and faculty wherever in the world;

WHEREAS anyone signing this declaration supports the beforementioned stakeholders in their quest to achieve inclusion on all levels and anywhere in the world:

We all call upon governments and the global community to pledge action toward (a) creating, coordinating, and integrating appropriate cross-sectoral public policies making inclusive sports in schools part of the academic and educational journey of all students, (b) allocating financing, including official development assistance, adequate to ensure

## THE BERLIN DECLARATION

the progressive realization of said policies, starting with ensuring that at least 3% of education budgets support inclusive education programming for students with disabilities, (c) upon achieving at least 3% of education budget for inclusive education programming, continue to striving to achieve an education budget that fully supports a comprehensive education for all students with disabilities, and (d) support especially Special Olympics to offer community-level inclusive sports worldwide.

We all call upon all governments worldwide to engage youth with and without intellectual disabilities to inform policy- and decision-making on how best to make schools, sports clubs, and communities fully inclusive for all students and participants, with the engagement of their parliaments and Ministries of Education, Sport, Social Welfare, Economy and International Cooperation and Development.

We all commit to concerted action to promote and invest in the transformative power of inclusive education through sports in every school, in every sports club, in every community, in every nation, around the world.

# The Berlin Declaration

## Inclusive Education and Communities through Sports Global Game Changer for Youth of All Abilities

### **Who we are:**

We are the participants in the Global Forum for Inclusion - Partnering for Action. The Global Forum for Inclusion takes place during the Special Olympics World Games 2023 in Berlin. The 2023 World Games are the largest global sporting event of the year.

We are, for example, athletes, representatives of national governments or researchers. And we want to foster inclusion all over the world.

With the Berlin Declaration, we invite every single person in the world to join us by signing.

### **And more precisely we are...**

...athletes of Special Olympics competing in year-round sports training and competitions around the world. We stand firm in our hope of a world where all communities offer sports for people with ID and all schools are welcoming different talents and gifts.

...governments that have understood the need to foster inclusive education for students of all ability levels, with a particular focus on students with ID, considering that improving local sports participation strengthens communities in general.

...stakeholders and industry leaders that recognize the need for increased investment in inclusive education for students of different abilities, especially for women and girls, and the importance of sport.

## THE BERLIN DECLARATION - SIMPLE LANGUAGE (SUMMARY)

...academic leaders that are committed to supporting research, evaluation, and analytics to strengthen inclusive education especially through sports.

...people from all over the world who sign the Declaration because we want to support the goals and demands of the Declaration.

What we demand:

- We call upon all global governments to
- take all measures that are necessary to make school sport inclusive.
- provide adequate funding to implement these measures.
- use at least 3% of the education budget for pupils with ID.
- aim for an even larger budget that fully supports all students with disabilities.
- support Special Olympics to promote and challenge inclusive sport worldwide.

And we call upon all governments worldwide to involve young people with and without disabilities to inform politics on how schools, sports clubs and communities can become inclusive for all.

We also commit to promoting inclusive education through sport in every school, every sports club, every community, every nation, everywhere in the world.

# 01

## General Information A-Z

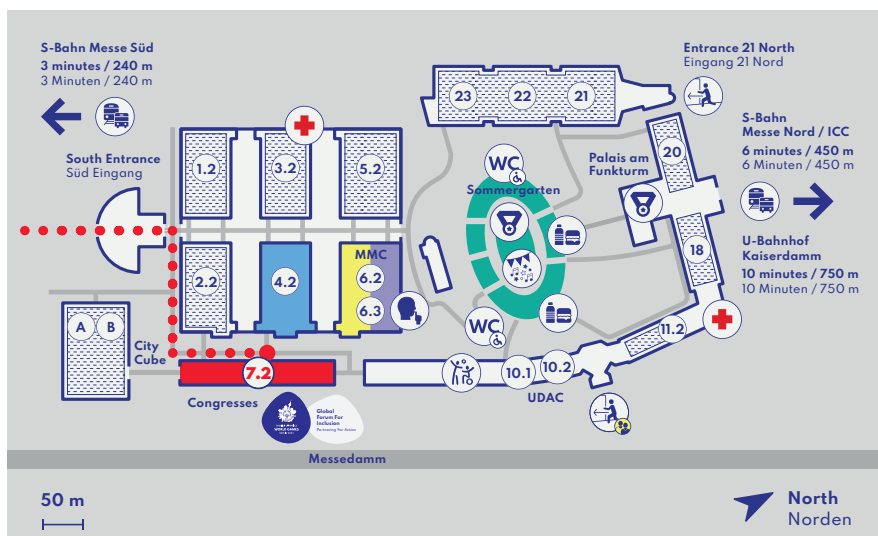


## Abstracts of the Breakout Sessions

Each Breakout Session has a brief description of its content and objective.  
The session outline is also available in Easy Language.

## Access to the Global Forum

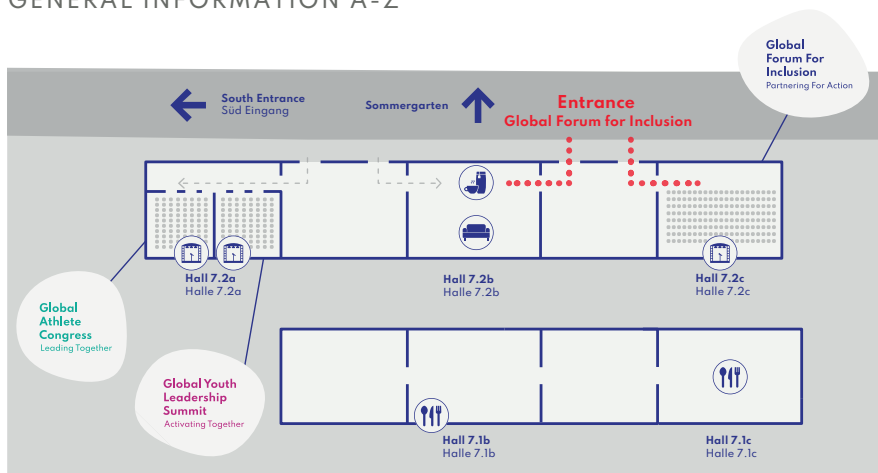
The participation in the Global Forum for Inclusion is by invitation only.  
The main entrance of the Global Forum, Hall Dublin (7.2c) can be reached via the Welcome Center at the Messe South entrance.  
The Hall 7.2 can be reached via the outdoor area by following the signs.



Messe Berlin



## GENERAL INFORMATION A-Z



Messe – Hall 7.2 – Congresses

## Accessibility

The area of the Global Forum is accessible by wheelchair.

If you have any questions, need help or assistance, please ask our helpful volunteers or call this number: **+49 30 24 60 3-300**

## Biographies

A short biography of each moderator, speaker, panelist or breakout session holder can be found in this Guide Book in the section “Biographies”, starting on page 96.

## Breakout Sessions

At the Global Forum, all participants come together to exchange ideas and to jointly develop new ways and approaches for more inclusion on a global level. Therefore, 26 breakout sessions in the fields of „Inclusive Education“, „Inclusive Communities - Access for All“ and „International Cooperation & Development“ have been implemented in the program on 17 June 2023.

## Catering

All participants of the Global Forum for inclusion are invited to the following catering services:

### 17 June 2023

10:45 – 11:15 ..... Coffee Break in the Lounge, Hall Budapest (7.2b)

12:00 – 13:15 ..... Lunch in Halls London (7.1b) and Paris (7.1c)

### 18 June 2023

11.15 – 11:45 ..... Coffee Break in the Lounge, Hall Budapest (7.2b)

13:00 – 14:30 ..... Lunch in Hall Paris (7.1c)

Refreshments will be available throughout the day in the lounge, Hall Budapest (7.2b).

## Charging Stations for Mobile Devices

Charging stations for mobile devices are available in the lounge in Hall Budapest (7.2b).

## Cloakroom

The cloakroom is located at the Welcome Center at the entrance “Messe South”.

### Opening hours:

17 June 2023 ..... 8:00 – 15:30

18 June 2023 ..... 9:00 – 15:30

## Credentials

Credentials for our international and national guests will be handed out from 15 to 25 June at the following venues:

**International guests:**

Hilton Hotel  
Mohrenstrasse 30  
10117 Berlin

**National guests:**

Messe South/ Honored Guest Welcome Center  
Messedamm 22  
14055 Berlin

Detailed information about your status as Honored Guest and about the entire games can be found in the dedicated Honored Guest Handbook, which was provided in advance.

If you have any questions while being at Messe Venue, please contact the following service points:

**Welcome Center at entrance “Messe South”**

**Opening hours:**

15 June 2023.....8:00 – 20:00  
16 June 2023.....8:00 – 20:00  
17 June 2023.....8:00 – 19:00  
18 June 2023.....8:00 – 19:00

**Welcome Desk at Global Forum, Hall Dublin (7.2)**

**Opening hours:**

17 June 2023.....8:00 – 15:00  
18 June 2023.....9:00 – 15:00

## Easy understandable English

All speakers are asked to provide their content in easy understandable language. Recordings of the forum sessions held in Hall Dublin (7.2c) will be available after the Global Forum for Inclusion on the event's website: **[www.berlin2023.org/en/congresses](http://www.berlin2023.org/en/congresses)**. You find them under the subsection for Global Forum.

## Emergency & Helplines

### General Hotline:

You can call this number if you would like general support and information about the Special Olympics World Games: **+49 30 62 933 600**

### Worry Number:

You can call this number to receive help in cases of violence or with mental health problems. **+49 30 62 933 60 10**

We can help you, for example, in cases of

- Sexualized violence
- Psychological problems
- Discrimination

### Emergency Call:

In the event of an emergency (for example in cases of fire or medical emergencies), our helpful volunteers can help you or you can directly contact following numbers: **112** or **+49 30 30 38 4444**

At this number you can reach

- The emergency doctor
- The ambulance
- The fire brigade

## Interpretation

The Global Forum for Inclusion will be held in English. The following simultaneous interpretations will be provided in Hall Dublin (7.2c):

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- French
- German
- Russian
- Spanish

Please note, that, except in Hall Dublin, interpretation is not provided during the Breakout Sessions.

Headphones will be handed out at the entrances of the Hall Dublin (7.2c).

Furthermore,

- Speech-to-text
- International Sign Language
- Easy English and
- Leichte Sprache Deutsch

will be provided in Hall Dublin (7.2c).

## Language

The official language of the Global Forum is English.

## Lost & Found

Found items will be deposited at the Welcome Center, located at the main entrance “Messe South”.

## Lounge

During the Global Forum, there will be a lounge in Hall Budapest (7.2b) with comfortable seating areas, beverage stations, a creativity and activity zone, as well as charging facilities for mobile devices. Furthermore, the posters of the Global Athlete Congress and the Youth Leadership Summit projects will be exhibited there.

## Mobile Devices

All guests are kindly asked to either fully switch off their mobile devices during the sessions or to set them to silent mode.

## Public Transportation

The credential includes the free use of public transportation within the city of Berlin and its surrounding area. The nearest train station (“S-Bahn”) is at the entrance “Messe South” and is called “Messe Süd”.

## Quiet Room

Being in a crowded and busy environment can be overwhelming. A quiet room is therefore at the convenience of all Global Forum participants throughout the duration of the congress. It is situated in Room Weimar 4, on the Meeting Bridge B level.

## Sign Language

We provide international sign language interpretation for the Global Forum sessions, taking place in Hall Dublin (7.2c).

Please note, that sign language is not provided during the Breakout Sessions.

## Smoking Policy

It is forbidden to smoke inside the buildings (including electronic cigarettes). Outside, smoking is allowed in dedicated areas.

## Speakers' Lounge

The Speakers' Lounge, located in Weimar 2 (Meeting Bridge B level), offers the following services:

- Possibility to check the presentation on a computer
- Possibility to receive assistance from technical personnel
- Possibility to make final changes to the presentation
- Possibility to relax on couches and to enjoy the refreshments provided here

### Opening hours:

**17 June 2023.....8:00 – 15:00**

**18 June 2023.....9:00 – 13:00**

From the Speakers' Lounge, presentations are automatically transmitted to the session halls.

**Note:** Presentation-laptops are available in the Breakout Session-Rooms and in Hall Dublin (7.2c); connecting own laptops is not possible. The access to the Speakers' Lounge is for speakers, panelists and session holders only.

## Speech-to-Text

For the Global Forum sessions held in Hall Dublin (7.2c) speech-to-text interpretation is provided. The interpretation will be automatically displayed on the screens and is available in English.

### **This means:**

- The translators write down everything that is said.  
For example, during the speeches.
- The written text is then shown on a screen.
- The audience can then read what is being said.

## Taxi

Participants are encouraged to use public transportation or specially arranged transfers.

In case a taxi is needed, they can be found at the main entrance “Messe South”.

## Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is available during the Global Forum for Inclusion.

Network: B23-Guest

Password: WGBerlin2023!!

## Wheelchair

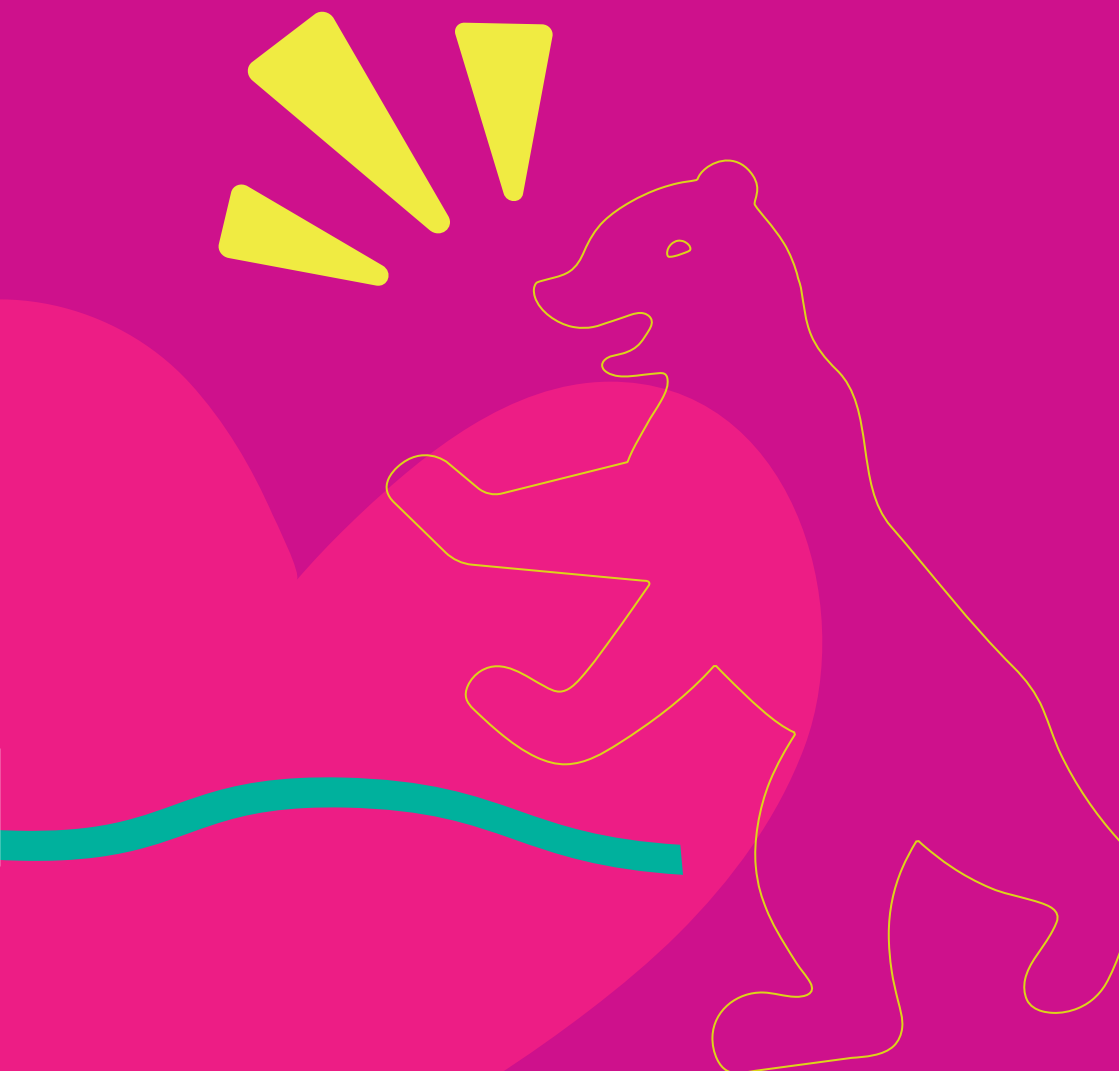
The area of the Global Forum is accessible by wheelchair.

Please ask our helpful volunteers if you have any questions or need help or assistance.



# 02

**Program**  
**17 June 2023**



	(7.2c)
Legend	Hall Dublin
Inclusive Education	09:00 - 10:05 General Session Global Forum for Inclusion – Partnering for Action Day 1  see page 30
Inclusive Communities – Access for all	
International Cooperation & Development	10:05 - 10:45 General Session Panel Discussion on Inclusive Education & Inclusive Communities in a global context  see page 32
Opening/Keynote	
Coffee Break/Lunch	
	14:10 - 14:30 Wrap-Up and Closing Day 1  see page 86

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW BREAKOUT SESSIONS - 17 JUNE 2023

(7.2c)	(7.2a-1)	(7.2a-2)
Hall Dublin	Hall Helsinki 1	Hall Helsinki 2

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Meeting Bridge A				
Room Lindau 1	Room Lindau 2	Room Lindau 3	Room Lindau 4	Room Lindau 6
10:45 - 11:15 Coffee Break in Hall Budapest (7.2b)				
<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> Who drives deinstitutionalization? How to realize independent living? Strategies and practices  <b>see page 38</b>	<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> Focus on strength?! Participation and self-determination at the transition between school and work  <b>see page 44</b>	<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> Ensuring healthy lives for everyone – access to health for people with disabilities  <b>see page 40</b>	<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> From a segregated workshop to university – People with disabilities work as Educational Specialists at University  <b>see page 42</b>	<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> Global expansion of Unified Champion Schools: Insights from around the world  <b>see page 46</b>
<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> Mental health and sport  <b>see page 78</b>	<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> Play to grow: Inclusive early childhood development provides opportunity for All  <b>see page 76</b>	<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> Access to the labour market – challenges & opportunities  <b>see page 62</b>	<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> Strengthening the foundations: why developing coaches matters?  <b>see page 68</b>	<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> Digitalization as an opportunity and challenge for people with ID  <b>see page 60</b>
14:00 - 14:10 Break in Hall Budapest (7.2b)				

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW BREAKOUT SESSIONS - 17 JUNE 2023

Meeting Bridge B		Meeting Bridge C		
Room Weimar 3	Room Weimar 5	Room Dessau 1	Room Dessau 3	Room Dessau 6

### 10:45 - 11:15 Coffee Break in Hall Budapest (7.2b)

<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> Inclusive places: Where will society meet in the future? Gathering examples and ideas.  <b>see page 36</b>	<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> United for development – inclusive sport for development activities in action  <b>see page 50</b>	<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> Discussion on including refugees in Special Olympics - local program development  <b>see page 58</b>	<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> Special Olympics athlete leadership impacts communities  <b>see page 34</b>	<b>11:15 - 12:00</b> Training the next generation of sports coaches with disabilities  <b>see page 48</b>
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<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> Lifelong learning for all?! How to support learning pathways for adults with learning difficulties  <b>see page 74</b>	<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> Health literacy for people with intellectual disabilities – adapting health information or a real chance for empowerment?  <b>see page 64</b>	<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> From the right to inclusive education to inclusive physical education - an educational governance perspective  <b>see page 72</b>	<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> Special Olympics local program development  <b>see page 66</b>	<b>13:15 - 14:00</b> Participation in politics and society - experiences and materials from an inclusive university project  <b>see page 70</b>
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### 14:00 - 14:10 Break in Hall Budapest (7.2b)

## GENERAL SESSION: Global Forum for Inclusion – Day 1

**09:00 – 10:05**  
**Hall Dublin (7.2c)**

### **Moderators:**

- Ian Harper, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Great Britain
- Victoria Arlen, ESPN SportsCenter Host, SOI Global Ambassador

## **Opening of the Global Forum for Inclusion – Partnering for Action**

### **09:00 Global Forum for Inclusion – Partnering for Action Day 1**

Moderators: Victoria Arlen, ESPN SportsCenter Host, SOI Global Ambassador & Ian Harper, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), Special Olympics (SO) Great Britain

### **09:03 Opening by Sven Albrecht & Mary Davis**

CEO, SOWG Berlin 2023 Local Organising Committee, SO Germany & CEO, Special Olympics International (SOI)

### **09:07 Welcome Remarks by Dr. Katarina Barley,**

Vice President of the European Parliament

- 09:15**     **Opening Speech by Jürgen Dusel,**  
The Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating  
to Persons with Disabilities, Germany
- 09:30**     **Keynote Speech on current life situation of people with  
intellectual disabilities**  
**(Inclusive Communities – Access for all)**  
by Haseeb Abbasi, SSIGM, SO Pakistan
- 09:40**     **Introduction to the “Berlin Declaration”  
with a special focus on Inclusive Education,**  
by Timothy Shriver, Chairman, SOI
- 10:00**     **Inclusive artistic entertainment**

## GENERAL SESSION

**10:05 – 10:45**  
**Hall Dublin (7.2c)**

### **Panel Discussion on Inclusive Education & Inclusive Communities in a global context**

**Moderator:**

- Prof. Eman Gaad, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor of Special and Inclusive Education, British University in Dubai, UAE

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Katarina Barley, Vice President, European Parliament
- Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Susan Liautaud, Vice Chair, Global Partnership for Education
- Salihin Bin Nawi, Global Youth Leadership Council, SO Singapore
- Simran Sahni, Global Youth Leadership Council, SO Singapore
- Kurtis Siu, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Hong Kong



## COFFEE BREAK

**10:45 – 11:15**

**Lounge, Hall Budapest (7.2b)**

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Inclusive Communities – Access for all**

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Room Dessau 3**

### **Special Olympics athlete leadership impacts communities**

Presentation with Q&A

**Speakers:**

- Daniel Smrokowski, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Illinois, USA
- Emanuelle Dutra de Souza, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Brazil

**Abstract:**

Building inclusive communities for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) means thoughtful reflection and action from all. In this session, you will hear how Special Olympics has transformed the lives of people with I/DD through year-round sports and leadership training. They will share how what they have learned and experienced in Special Olympics has made them better people, better leaders, and better employees. They will also discuss steps that people without I/DD can take to be more inclusive.

**Abstract Easy Language:**

Special Olympics athletes share how sports and leadership training have changed their lives and those in their communities.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Inclusive Communities – Access for all**

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Room Weimar 3**

**Inclusive places: Where will society meet in the future? Gathering examples and ideas**  
Roundtable/Fishbowl

**Speakers:**

- Elisa Gärtner, Program Consultant, Futurium – The House of Futures, Germany
- Andrea Florez Jurado, Research Associate, Strategy and Content, Futurium – The House of Futures, Germany
- Stefanie Trzecinski, Founder, Kopf, Hand + Fuss, Germany
- Torsten Holzapfel, Artist, Thikwawerkstatt für Theater und Kunst, Germany
- Anne-Christin Plate, Art Director, Thikwawerkstatt für Theater und Kunst, Germany
- Caitlin Baran, Athlete Leadership Coordinator, Special Olympics International (SOI); Athlete, SO Pennsylvania
- Amy Ramírez Estrada, Youth Leader, SO El Salvador
- Gabriela Velásquez Rodríguez, Youth Leader, SO El Salvador

**Abstract:**

Where will society meet in the future? Cultural places look different in each country and community. One thing, they all have in common: the idea of being places where people meet and get together. In the event, examples, visions and elements for inclusive meeting places are being collected.

How would people with intellectual disabilities design spaces to enjoy culture, broaden perspectives and exchange ideas? What topics and activities are there to initiate shared experiences for people with and without disabilities? And how can politics contribute to the success of inclusive places?

The event will be held in a “fishbowl” format with inputs and audience participation. With your inputs from different perspectives and backgrounds, our illustrator will create one large drawing. We are looking forward to inspirational results!

At Futurium, the house of futures in Berlin, everything revolves around the question: „How do we want to live?“. We invite everyone and want to encourage them to shape the future themselves. This explicitly includes persons with disabilities. As part of the activities for the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Futurium hosts this participatory event at the Global Forum on Inclusion.

**Abstract in easy language:**

This session explores how people with ID can create places to enjoy culture and exchange ideas, and how politics can support these ideas.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Inclusive Communities – Access for all**

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Room Lindau 1**

### **Who drives deinstitutionalization? How to realize independent living? Strategies and practices**

Panel Discussion

**Moderator:**

- Maureen McCormick, SOI Global Ambassador, Special Olympics International (SOI)

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Dorothy Nakato Mubezi, Co-founder and Executive Director, Uganda National Self-Advocacy Initiative (UNSAI)
- Ian Harper, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Great Britain
- Iván Castellanos Nájera, National Program Associate, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Mexico
- HRH Prince Mired bin Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, the Lord Chamberlain of Jordan
- Milan Šveřepa, Director, Inclusion Europe

**Abstract in easy language:**

Most people without disabilities can lead a self-determined life. But most people with ID have difficulties to lead a self-determined life because they have to face many barriers. This session explores chance and challenges.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Inclusive Communities – Access for all

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Room Lindau 3**

#### **Ensuring healthy lives for everyone – access to health for people with disabilities** Presentation with Q&A

**Speakers:**

- Danae Rodríguez Gatta, Fellow, The Missing Billion Initiative
- Sara Rotenberg, Fellow, The Missing Billion Initiative
- Marie Kehoe-O’Sullivan, National Disability Specialist, Health Service Executive (HSE), Ireland
- Brina Maxino, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Philippines



**Abstract:**

Being healthy is important for creating strong and thriving communities. When we are in good health, we can fully develop our potential in life, contribute to society, and have access to education and jobs. While everyone should have the right to healthcare, people with disabilities often face more challenges than others when trying to access health services. The healthcare system is not designed with their needs in mind. As a result, 1.3 billion people around the world have poorer health because of these barriers. In this session, we want participants to learn more about this issue and find practical solutions to make healthcare more inclusive. We will share important facts about the difficulties faced by people with disabilities in accessing healthcare, listen to lived experiences of people with disabilities, and showcase examples of inclusive practices in the health sector. We will discuss what it means to have healthcare that includes and supports people with disabilities, and explore the actions that different individuals and groups can take to make it a reality.

**Abstract in easy language**

The session discusses the issue of limited access to healthcare for persons with ID and explores solutions to make healthcare more accessible.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Inclusive Education**

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Room Lindau 4**

**From a segregated workshop to university –  
People with disabilities work as educational  
specialists at university**  
Presentation with Q&A

**Speakers:**

- Samuel Wunsch, Education Specialist, Institute for Inclusive Education at University of Kiel, Germany
- Annika Hase, Deputy Head of Educational Activities, Institute for Inclusive Education at University of Kiel, Germany

**Abstract:**

The Institute for Inclusive Education at the University of Kiel developed a vocational three-year qualification for people with so-called intellectual disabilities that enables them to work at universities as lecturers. Educational specialists communicate the lives and needs of people with disabilities to students. In order to improve the participation of people with disabilities and bridge the divide between the segregated world of people with disabilities and the higher education sector, the project puts into practice three articles from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):

- Article 24 (Education): A higher education is provided by offering qualifications for people with so-called intellectual disabilities over a period of 3 years.
- Article 27 (Work/ Employment): The educational specialists are employed on the first labour market at the university.
- Article 8 (Awareness-raising): The educational specialists convey inclusion competencies to future professionals through their seminars and lectures.

In this presentation, the educational specialist Samuel Wunsch and the educational partner Annika Hase give an impression of the Institute's history and the development of the qualification. They offer an insight into the educational work of the educational specialists at the university. In addition, Samuel Wunsch shares his experiences in regards to his educational and professional path.

At the end of the presentation, the participants exchange thoughts with the person next to them and get a chance to address Samuel Wunsch and Annika Hase with their questions.

**Abstract in easy language:**

The Institute for Inclusive Education at the University of Kiel has developed a qualification program for people with ID. It enables them to work as lecturers at universities.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Inclusive Education**

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Room Lindau 2**

### **Focus on strength?! Participation and self-determination at the transition between school and work**

Presentation with Q&A

#### **Speakers:**

- Prof. Dr. H.-Hugo Kremer, Professor, Business and Human Resource Education, University of Paderborn, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Petra Frehe-Halliwel, Professor, Business Educational Studies, University of Jena, Germany
- Dr. Heike Kundisch, Postdoc, Business and Human Resource Education, University of Paderborn, Germany
- Franziska Otto, Research Associate, Business and Human Resource Education, University of Paderborn, Germany

**Abstract:**

Discovering your own strengths, naming them and making them visible to others can be a big challenge. Knowing and showing one's own strengths is of particular importance for both personal and school contexts and especially in the transition to the professional and working world. The focus of this research and development project 'SeiP' is on young people at the transition from school to work with wide-ranging needs. SeiP aims to support disadvantaged young people through so-called 'Selbstinszenierungspraktiken' (which means a combination of practices for self-awareness, self-realisation and self-acceptance in a process which we are developing in our project). The project supports young people to recognize their strengths and makes them visible to others using multimodal formats. The aim of the presentation is to show how these young people can discover and build up their strengths and also can be strengthened by using principles of strength orientation and self-determination for the transition to the training and labor market. We will present materials and methods developed together with teachers and social workers and we also provide insights into our co-operation with schools.

**Abstract in easy language:**

The SeiP project wants to support young people before they start working by helping them to discover their own strengths.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Inclusive Education

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Room Lindau 6**

## **Global expansion of Unified Champion Schools: Insights from around the world**

Panel Discussion

**Moderator:**

- Haylie Wrubel, Senior Director, Global Education Strategy and Programming, Special Olympics International (SOI)

**Panelists:**

Young people with and without ID from 7 SOI regions:

1. SONA – Zackery Ryer & Ethan Bufford-Cournoyer
2. SOLA – Fabricio Valdez & Mariana López
3. SOEE – Theodora Vasileiadou & Dafni Deligianni
4. SOAP – Yumna Masood & Humaira Syeda
5. SOEA – Akmaral Aibye & Sarandagina Nyambuudorj
6. MENA – Farah Wael & Login Abdelaal
7. SOA – Vimbai Njovo & Tanyaradzwa Kaseke

**Abstract:**

The Global Expansion of Unified Champion Schools breakout session provides a glimpse at best practices for inclusive school-based programming globally. Participants of the Global Youth Leadership Summit are proud to present strategies and personal experiences from facilitating Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement programming in their schools. By listening to representatives from each Special Olympics Region, breakout participants are encouraged to travel across the globe as they hear examples of how youth leaders, with and without ID, are making schools more inclusive.

**Abstract in easy language:**

The session will present best practices for inclusive school programs. It includes, for example, also personal experiences from Unified Sports. In Unified Sports people with and without disabilities do sport together.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Inclusive Education**

**11:15 – 12:00**

**Room Dessau 6**

## **Training the next generation of sports coaches with disabilities**

**Workshop**

### **Speakers:**

- Peter Ackred, CEO, Disability Sports Coach, United Kingdom
- Hannah Paton, Workforce Officer, Disability Sports Coach, United Kingdom



**Abstract:**

The UK charity, Disability Sports Coach (DSC), uses sport to enhance the lives of people with various disabilities and their families in London through weekly clubs, online activity sessions, and inclusive activities in schools, colleges, and community groups. DSC also trains coaches, teachers, and organizations to confidently deliver inclusive activities and provides people with disabilities with opportunities to begin a career in sports coaching.

The 'Inclusive Activity Leaders' project ran from September 2022 to May 2023 and aimed to diversify the workforce, upskilling people with and without disabilities as coaches to deliver inclusive sport and reach more people with disabilities. The workshop explores barriers faced by individuals with disabilities, with a focus on those with intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties, in coaching qualifications and shares recommendations to overcome these challenges from course applications to assessments.

**Abstract in easy language:**

The UK charity Disability Sports Coach uses sport to improve the lives of people with ID and their families. They also train coaches, teachers, and organizations to offer inclusive activities and to give people with disabilities the opportunity to start working in sports coaching.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### International Cooperation & Development

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Room Weimar 5**

#### **United for development - inclusive Sport for Development activities in action**

#### **Workshop**

##### **Speakers:**

- Dr. Heike Kuhn, Head of Division, Education, German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ)
- Dina Klingmann, Adviser, Global Program Sport for Development and Peace, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany
- Luise Haunit, Adviser, Global Program Sport for Development and Peace, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany
- Genevieve Bamwidhukire, National Director SO Uganda, Sport for Development Trainer (GIZ), Uganda
- Vanja Vrdinova, Sport for Development Trainer, North Macedonia

**Abstract:**

Sport for Development is the intentional use of physical activity and sport to achieve specific development objectives. With our work we aim to reduce inequalities in and through sport and foster learning opportunities for all young people. Together with partners from state, civil society and the private sector in many countries around the globe, German Development Cooperation works towards more inclusive societies.

In this session we would like to take you with us into our work in the Western Balkans, Uganda and other countries and regions around the globe. See and experience how we understand and apply sports. Reflect with us how Sport for Development can be adapted for inclusive groups. Exchange with our trainers about the possibilities and challenges of inclusive sport work. Jump in and we will share our experienced-based learnings with you in a practical and fun way.

**Abstract in easy language:**

The session wants to show how sport can be used to reduce inequalities.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### International Cooperation & Development

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Hall Helsinki 1 (7.2a-1)**

## **Promoting inclusion and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities**

### Panel Discussion

#### **Moderator:**

- Hamchetou Maiga-Ba, Chairperson, SO Mali, Board of Directors, Special Olympics International (SOI)

#### **Panelists:**

- Prof. Eman Gaad, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor of Special and Inclusive Education, British University in Dubai, UAE
- Maryam Ahmad Thyab, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Kuwait
- Birgitte Bischoff Ebbesen, Regional Director, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Europe
- Dr. Lydia Abela, Wife of the Prime Minister, Malta

**Abstract in easy language:**

Women and girls are an often-forgotten group within society. If they also have an intellectual disability, the chance of leading a self-determined life with good education, health coverage and participation in society is often pretty small.

This sessions explores the improvements and challenges.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### International Cooperation & Development

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Hall Dublin (7.2c)**

## **The legacy of Special Olympics World Games** **Panel Discussion**

### **Moderator:**

- Ben Haack, Workplace Readiness and Inclusion Consultant, Special Olympics International (SOI), Athlete Leader, SO Australia

### **Panelists:**

- Sven Albrecht, CEO, SOWG Berlin 2023 Local Organizing Committee, CEO, SO Germany
- Dr. Shi Derong, SOI Board member, Chairperson Senior Advisory Council (SAC), Special Olympics International SOI, Senior Advisory Council (SAC), SO East Asia
- Matt English, CEO, SO Ireland
- Her Excellency Shamma Al Mazrui, Minister of Community Development, UAE
- Carolyn Chamberlin, CEO, SO Nebraska, USA

**Abstract in easy language:**

Special Olympics World Games take years to prepare and organize. But how long-lasting is their legacy? What remains afterwards? This session is asking these questions to different hosts of Special Olympics World Games and Regional Games.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **International Cooperation & Development**

**11:15 – 12:00**

**Hall Helsinki 2 (7.2a-2)**

#### **From goals to gold: Sustainable development and Special Olympics**

Presentation with Q&A

**Speaker:**

- Beniam Gebrezghi, Program Specialist Civil Society & Youth, UNDP  
Bangkok Regional Hub, Thailand



**Abstract:**

Join us for an informative session that provides an overview of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a special focus on SDG 4 - Quality Education and SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities, and their linkage with the impactful work of Special Olympics. Discover how they empower individuals with and without intellectual disabilities, foster social inclusion, and drive positive change in communities worldwide. Come and explore how the pursuit of SDGs and inclusive development can lead to gold medal impacts for all individuals, regardless of ability.

**Abstract in easy language:**

In 2015, the United Nations created 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This session provides an overview of these goals and shows how they empower individuals with and without ID and foster inclusion.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### International Cooperation & Development

**11:15 – 12:00**  
**Room Dessau 1**

## **Discussion on including refugees in Special Olympics**

### **Panel Discussion**

#### **Moderator:**

- Gerald Mballe, Advisor, SO Unified with Refugees Program, Special Olympics Europe Eurasia (SOEE)

#### **Panelists:**

- Eva Gazova, National Director, SO Slovakia
- Nick Sore, Senior Refugee Sports Coordinator, UNHCR
- Barbara Grewe, International Director, Lions Clubs International
- Sven Spannekrebs, Executive Director & Co-Founder Yusra Mardini Foundation, PR-Manager, SOWG Berlin 2023

#### **Abstract in easy language:**

This session discusses the chances and challenges of including refugees into Special Olympics programs.

## LUNCH BREAK

**12:00 – 13.15**

**Halls London (7.1b) and Paris (7.1c)**

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Inclusive Communities – Access for all**

**13:15 – 14:00**  
**Room Lindau 6**

### **Digitalization as an opportunity and challenge for people with ID**

Panel Discussion

**Moderator:**

- Nathaniel Cook, Vice President of Information Management and Technology Advancement, SO Washington, USA

**Panelists:**

- Debra Maria Ruh, CEO & Founder, Ruh Global IMPACT, Billion Strong, USA
- Nyasha Derera, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM) SO Zimbabwe, Board of Directors, Special Olympics International (SOI)
- Eric Braun, Co-Founder and CFO Eye-Able, Germany
- Charmaine Daniels, CEO, DIGICEL Foundation, Caribbean

**Abstract:**

The panel will discuss the impact of digitalization on individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID), while considering the potential opportunities and challenges inherent in organizational modernization. We'll explore how digital technologies can improve the lives of people with ID by providing greater access to information, communication, and services. We'll also evaluate the potential risks and challenges, such as digital exclusion and the need for tailored support and training with an emphasis on the importance of ensuring that people with ID are included in the digital transformation and that their unique needs are addressed to fully realize the potential benefits of digitalization.

**Abstract in easy language:**

Digitalization can contribute to inclusion, e.g., by enabling people with ID to participate in society through online offers. However, there are also some challenges and problems, e.g., if people with ID are not informed and trained about the negative aspects of digitalization.

This session discusses these challenges.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Inclusive Communities – Access for all

**13:15 – 14:00**  
**Room Lindau 3**

#### **Access to the labour market - challenges and opportunities**

Lecture with Panel Discussion

**Moderator:**

- Anouk van Hoofstadt, Senior Researcher, Antwerp Management School, Belgium

**Panelists:**

- Prof. Dr. Bart Cambré, Associate Dean, Research and Valorization, Professor, Business Research Methods, Antwerp Management School, Belgium
- Renée Manfredi, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Texas, USA
- Dr. Ulrich Roth, Deputy chairman of the board, Würth Foundation, Germany
- Mike Lake, Member of Parliament, Canada

**Abstract:**

The awareness on the need for inclusion of employees with intellectual and development disabilities at the workplace is growing. Their employment is on the rise. Still, the rates remain low to inexistant. Barriers are multiple and complex. What does it take to tear them down? Can leadership training for both people with intellectual and development disabilities and employers and co-workers without intellectual disabilities improve inclusion of workers with intellectual and development disabilities in the regular economy?

**Abstract in easy language:**

This session discusses the challenges and opportunities of including people with ID in the job market.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Inclusive Communities – Access for all**

**13:15 – 14:00**  
**Room Weimar 5**

### **Health literacy for people with intellectual disabilities – adapting health information or a real chance for empowerment?**

Lecture with Panel discussion

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Dirk Bruland, Research Associate, Health Department, Hochschule Bielefeld – University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSBI), Germany
- Nils Sebastian Vetter, Research Associate, Health Department, Hochschule Bielefeld – University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSBI), Germany



**Abstract:**

To promote health literacy among people with intellectual disabilities, eight explanatory videos were developed in a participatory research project (GeKo-MmgB). Health literacy implies the achievement of knowledge level and personal skills to take action to improve personal health. Up to now, a target group-oriented approach has not been adequately conceptualized. A major criticism is a dominant functional view, e. g. only converting health-related information into easy-to-understand language. In our project the health literacy framework were modified target-group-specific and used for the videos. Through participatory involvement of potential users, videos were developed addressing relevant health topics. Geko-MmgB presented the experiences of preparing information in a way that adequately reaches many people with intellectual disabilities and leading to action. Also the way health literacy is understood and improved in a target group-specific manner, which is critical to empowerment.

**Abstract in easy language:**

This session discusses the development of 8 explanatory videos for promoting health literacy among people with ID. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Health.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Inclusive Communities – Access for all**

**13:15 – 14:00**  
**Room Dessau 3**

### **Special Olympics local program development** **Panel Discussion**

**Moderator:**

- Charles Nyambe, Regional President & Managing Director, SO Africa

**Panelists:**

- Ben Haack, Workplace Readiness and Inclusion Consultant, Special Olympics International (SOI), Athlete Leader, SO Australia
- Claudia Peña Testa, Family Representative, SO Latin America
- Blair McIntosh, Vice President Sports, SO Canada
- Kim Samuel, Founder and Chief Belonging Officer, Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness, Canada

**Abstract:**

This panel will discuss how athlete and family involvement and advocacy can impact local sports participation and strengthen communities. Our goal is to inspire leaders to actively involve athletes and families in their sphere of influence, promoting access for all through inclusive communities.

**Abstract in easy language:**

This panel will discuss the importance of local communities in ensuring that people of all abilities have access to sports.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Inclusive Communities – Access for all**

**13:15 – 14:00**  
**Room Lindau 4**

### **Strengthening the foundations: Why developing coaches matters?**

Presentation with Q&A

#### **Speakers:**

- Fiona Murray, Director, Coaching and Education, Special Olympics International (SOI)
- Jeff Lahart, Manager, Coaching Development, Special Olympics International (SOI)
- Shrey Kadian, Athlete Leader, SO Bharat (India)
- Kiera Byland, Athlete Leader, SO Great Britain

**Abstract:**

Coaches are the foundation of the Special Olympics movement. This session will focus on exploring why they are so critical as well as showcasing current coach development practices in Special Olympics. We will conclude by shining a light on the ways in which Special Olympics can better support and develop coaches to provide the best possible sports experience for their athletes.

**Abstract in easy language:**

This session highlights the important role of coaches in the Special Olympics movement and presents different good practices.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Inclusive Communities – Access for all**

**13:15 – 14:00**

**Room Dessau 6**

**Participation in politics and society -  
experiences and materials  
from an inclusive university project**  
Presentation with Q&A

**Speaker:**

- Nico Leonhardt, Research Associate, Faculty of Education,  
University of Leipzig, Germany

**Abstract:**

Even today, there are still many barriers to the implementation of inclusive political and social participation. People with experience of disability often do not have full access to all important and necessary information. This is often a big problem, for example, when it comes to elections and politics in general. In the inclusive project QuaBIS, a material for political education was therefore developed at the University of Leipzig. This material was developed in cooperation with people with learning difficulties in order to make people aware of the topic of politics and elections in understandable language. In our 'Interactive Presentation', we would like to introduce our project and the material we have created. Then we want to discuss the material with you. We want to find out which barriers, possibilities and materials you know in the field of political and social participation. What are the similarities and differences? We look forward to the exchange with you!

**Abstract in easy language:**

People with ID often face barriers while accessing important information. That is why the QuaBIS project developed political education material in easy-to-read.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Inclusive Education**

**13:15 – 14:00**

**Room Dessau 1**

#### **From the right to inclusive education to inclusive physical education - An educational governance perspective Workshop**

**Speaker:**

- Prof. Dr. Heike Tiemann, Inclusive Education in Germany / Special Olympics Germany Research Council, University of Leipzig, Germany



**Abstract:**

There can be many reasons why teachers teach physical education the way they do. Some, for example, teach physical education almost as they experienced it themselves in their own school days, while others were or are active in competitive sport outside of school and transfer the aims, content and methods of competitive sport to physical education in school. The interactive workshop specifies the question posed at the beginning and discusses possible explanations as to why teachers design inclusive physical education in a certain way. Fundamental in this context are perspectives of educational governance, a research approach that examines the maintenance and transformation of social orders in the education system, focusing in particular on the coordination of actions between different actors.

**Abstract in easy language:**

This session explores why teachers plan physical education in a certain way.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Inclusive Education**

**13:15 – 14:00**

**Room Weimar 3**

### **Lifelong learning for all?! How to support learning pathways for adults with learning difficulties Workshop**

#### **Speakers:**

- Prof. Dr. Silke Schreiber-Barsch, Full Professor in Adult Education, Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- Dr. Wiebke Curdt, Research assistant, Faculty of Educational Science, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

**Abstract:**

This workshop discusses the learning pathways of adults with learning difficulties. The United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and an inclusive education claim that lifelong learning is for all.

But does 'for all' also, in reality, mean 'for all'?

To participate in lifelong learning, it is important to show and to record one's own abilities and competencies. To support this, we present a portfolio-instrument: It is called MEIN.Profil = MY.profile. We have developed this portfolio-instrument in a participatory research project. It allows adults with learning difficulties in an easy-accessible and resource-oriented way to show their interests and strengths. And it allows to record one's own abilities and competencies in basic reading and writing and simple math in daily life.

This helps to move on in activities in free-time, school or also at work.

We show the participants how MY.profile looks like, how it works and what benefits it provides for adult learners. And, we are looking forward to your feed-back!

**Abstract in easy language:**

This workshop presents an easy-accessible tool called "MY.profile" that allows adults with ID to present their interests, strengths and competencies in reading, writing, and math.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Inclusive Education

**13:15 – 14:00**  
**Room Lindau 2**

## **Play to Grow: Inclusive early childhood development provides opportunity for all**

### Panel Discussion

#### **Moderator:**

- Rebecca Ralston, Senior Director, of Early Childhood and Preventive Health, Special Olympics International (SOI)

#### **Panelists:**

- Dr. Dimitri Christakis, Vice President, Global Health Promotion, Prevention, and Policy Advocacy, Special Olympics International (SOI), USA
- Stephanie Jones, Gerald S. Lesser Professor in Early Childhood Development, Harvard University, USA

**Abstract:**

The early childhood years are critical for all children, and particularly so for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). These years are a time of great vulnerability for the general health and well-being of a child and can impact their foundation for life-long health and development. Effective early childhood development (ECD) and early interventions are critical in supporting the health of a child and their entire family, while also positively impacting a family's life course by supporting development and future outcomes. This breakout will highlight the value and impact of inclusive ECD interventions on children with IDD and showcase successful models for impacting child health, development, and early learning.

**Abstract in easy language:**

This session highlights the impact of inclusive early childhood experiences on child health, development, and early learning.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Inclusive Education

**13:15 – 14:00**  
**Room Lindau 1**

## **Mental health and sport**

Presentation with Q&A

### **Speakers:**

- Dr. Skye Arthur-Banning, Fellow, US Center for Mental Health & Sport, USA
- Margaret Domka, Executive Director, US Center for Mental Health & Sport, USA

**Abstract:**

Over the past year, our sport community has seen many athletes struggling with depression or anxiety. In the United States, 1 in 4 players experience a mental disorder over the course of a year. It is unlikely that anyone who coaches a team is completely free of concern about mental health challenges. Individuals with intellectual disabilities are at higher risk of co-occurring mental health challenges, making awareness in the Special Olympics community even more important. The good news is that as coaches, mentors, or peers, we can make a difference – WE CAN SAVE LIVES! This session is designed to discuss protective and risk factors of sport environments, the steps that you can take to protect the mental health of your athletes and yourselves, while seeking to improve a player's fitness, and enjoyment of the sport. We will also discuss the mental health challenges that come with "Big Event" let down that is often seen in athletes after a large event like the World Games draws to a close. Together, we can continue to bring mental health to the forefront of sporting environments at all levels.

**Abstract in easy language:**

In the past year, many of our athletes have dealt with depression or anxiety. In the United States, 1 in 4 players suffers from mental health problems in the course of a year. It is unlikely that someone who coaches a team does not have to worry about mental health issues. People with intellectual disabilities have a higher risk of mental health problems. So raising awareness of this issue in the Special Olympics community is very important. The good news is that we as coaches, mentors or peers can make a difference - WE CAN SAVE LIVES! This session will focus on protective and risk factors and actions you can take to protect the mental health of your athletes and yourself. We will also talk about the mental health challenges that come with the disappointment of the end of a ,big event', which is common among athletes after the end of a big event like the World Games.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### International Cooperation & Development

**13:15 – 14:00**  
**Hall Dublin (7.2c)**

#### **Sports for all – sport as an inclusive experience** Panel Discussion

**Moderator:**

- Prof. Dr. Gudrun Doll-Tepper, Professor of Inclusive Education, Physical Activity and Sport, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

**Panelists:**

- Hanna Joy Atkinson, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Colorado, USA
- Catherine Carty, UNESCO Chair project manager, Munster Technological University, Ireland
- Fabio Araujo, Secretary of Paraspport, Ministry of Sports Brazil
- Apolo Ohno, SOI Global Ambassador, Special Olympics International (SOI)
- Anne Gachoya, Deputy Director for Policy and East Africa Partnerships, Ministry of Education, Kenya



**Abstract in easy language:**

This session explores the function of sport for inclusion, what inclusive sport means and what everybody can take with them when participating in inclusive sport.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **International Cooperation & Development**

**13:15 – 14:00**

**Hall Helsinki 1 (7.2a-1)**

#### **Sports funding opportunities for the German Federal Foreign Office with special focus on inclusion**

Presentation with Q&A

**Speaker:**

- Torsten Hilscher, Department of International Sport-Relations, German Federal Foreign Office (AA)

**Abstract:**

The German FO disposes of special budgets for the International Sport Promotion and the funding of sports projects in DAC countries.

The projects shall strengthen and support the development of civil society structures long term. The program is focused on

- girls, women and other socially marginalized / excluded / disadvantaged groups
- Para sports projects and
- Inclusion in sport

Inclusion in sport is understood as support for all members of the society regardless of their sex, gender, ethnicity, disabilities, religion etc. by means of sports projects. Especially international sport events should function as an inclusive element for all members of the society.

This session showcases examples of different projects and encourages the audience to discuss why such projects are important and what is needed to make them successful.

**Abstract in easy language**

The German Federal Foreign Office provides fundings for sports projects that do not only promote sport but help to strengthen the civil society structures in specific countries. This session explains how the fundings are distributed, how inclusion plays an important role and how the projects on site can look like.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **International Cooperation & Development**

**13:15 – 14:00**

**Hall Helsinki 2 (7.2a-2)**

**From goals to gold:**

**Sustainable development and Special Olympics**

Presentation with Q&A

**Speaker:**

- Beniam Gebrezghi, Program Specialist Civil Society & Youth, UNDP  
Bangkok Regional Hub, Thailand

**Abstract:**

Join us for an informative session that provides an overview of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a special focus on SDG 4 - Quality Education and SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities, and their linkage with the impactful work of Special Olympics. Discover how they empower individuals with and without intellectual disabilities, foster social inclusion, and drive positive change in communities worldwide. Come and explore how the pursuit of SDGs and inclusive development can lead to gold medal impacts for all individuals, regardless of ability.

**Abstract in easy language:**

In 2015, the United Nations created 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This session provides an overview of these goals and shows how they empower individuals with and without ID and foster inclusion.

## WRAP UP AND CLOSING DAY 1

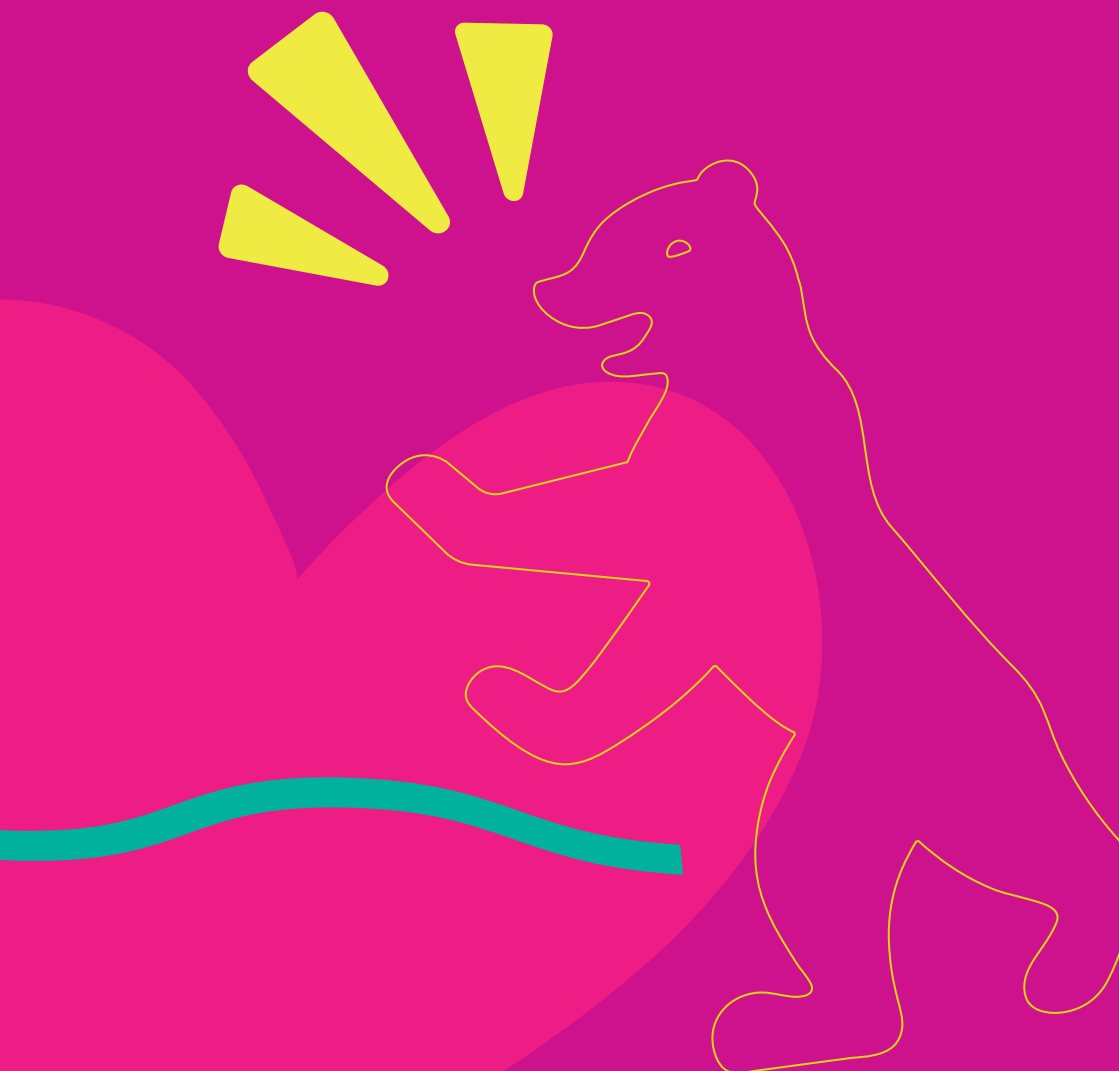
**14:10 – 14:30**  
**Hall Dublin (7.2c)**

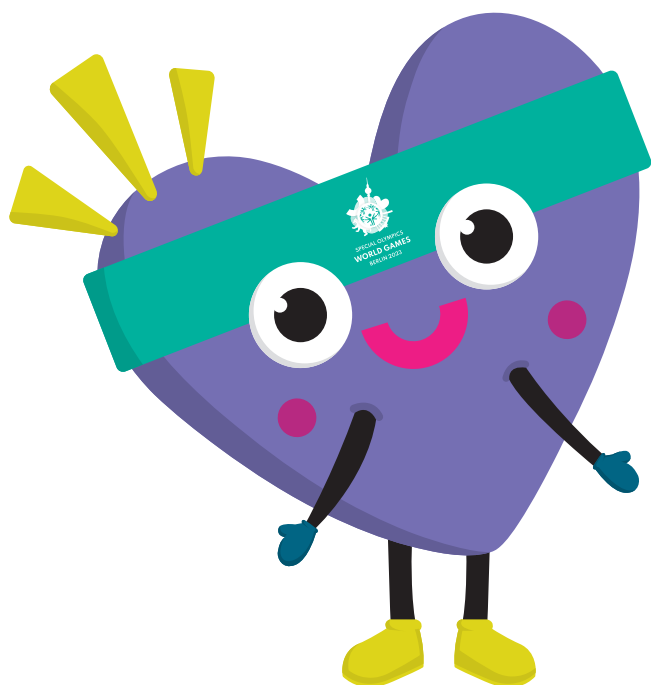
**Moderators:**

- Ian Harper, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Great Britain
- Victoria Arlen, ESPN SportsCenter Host, SOI Global Ambassador

# 02

**Program**  
**18 June 2023**







Legend

Inclusive Education
Inclusive Communities – Access for all
International Cooperation & Development
Opening/Keynote
Coffee Break/Lunch

(7.2c)
Hall Dublin
10:00 - 11:15 General Session Global Forum for Inclusion – Partnering for Action Day 2 see page 90
11:15 - 11:45 Coffee Break (Lounge)
11:45 - 12:30 General Session Panel Discussion on Inclusive perspectives: What will the legacy of the “Berlin Declaration” be? see page 92
12:30 - 13:00 Wrap-up and Closing of the Global Forum Day 2 see page 94
13:00 - 14:30 Lunch Break in Hall 7.1c

## GENERAL SESSION: Global Forum for Inclusion – Day 2

**10:00 – 11:15**  
**Hall Dublin (7.2c)**

### **Moderators:**

- Ian Harper, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Great Britain
- Yang Lan, Chairperson, Sun Media Group & Sun Culture Foundation, Board Member, Special Olympics International (SOI)

## **Opening and Keynote Speeches**

### **10:05      Opening Speech**

Opening Speech by a member of the German Federal Government

### **10:17      Keynote Speech**

Helena Dalli, European Commissioner for Equality, European Commission

### **10:30      Keynote Speech on outcomes of day 1 of the Global Forum with a special focus on Youth Leadership**

Mara Oprea, Co-Chair, Global Youth Leadership Council, SO Romania  
Anca Oprea, Co-Chair, Global Youth Leadership Council, SO Romania

**10:45     Keynote Speech on “The importance of collaboration and inclusion to improve the health status of persons with ID”**

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization (WHO)

**10:55     „Berlin Declaration“**

Timothy Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International (SOI)

**COFFEE BREAK**

**11:15 – 11:45**

**Lounge, Hall Budapest (7.2b)**

## GENERAL SESSION

**11:45 – 12:30**  
**Hall Dublin (7.2c)**

### **Panel Discussion on inclusive perspectives: What will the legacy of the “Berlin Declaration” be?**

**Moderator:**

- Anni Lindemann, University teacher, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Rolf Schmachtenberg, State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS)
- Heidi Mallett, Chair, SOI Global Athlete Leadership Council, Athlete, SO Canada
- HE Luis Gallegos, Former Foreign Minister, Ecuador, Former Ecuadorian Ambassador to the United Nations (UN)
- Rajah Diouri Sy, National Director, SO Senegal
- Brina Maxino, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Philippines

### **Abstract**

In the panel discussion on the Berlin Declaration, the brilliant panelists from different fields of expertise will discuss what kind of impact the Berlin Declaration should have and where it can lead to.

- Why should we improve inclusion especially through sports?
- What does the Berlin Declaration mean on a governmental level?
- Why are international bonds and networks so important in increasing inclusion?

These are some of the questions which will be looked at closer during the panel. And last but not least, one question remains to be answered by everyone: Is there something we all can do to strengthen the legacy of the Berlin Declaration and make inclusion the norm?

### **Abstract in easy language:**

In the panel discussion on the Berlin Declaration, experts from different disciplines will discuss what impact the Berlin Declaration should have and where it can lead to. Why should we improve inclusion especially through sport? What does the Berlin Declaration mean at government level? These are some of the questions to be discussed during the panel discussion.

## GENERAL SESSION

**12:30 – 13:00**  
**Hall Dublin (7.2c)**

### **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING OF THE GLOBAL FORUM** **DAY 2**

#### **Moderators:**

- Ian Harper, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM), SO Great Britain
- Yang Lan, Chairperson, Sun Media Group & Sun Culture Foundation, Board Member, Special Olympics International (SOI)

## LUNCH

**13:00 – 14.30**  
**Hall Paris (7.1c)**

# 03 Biographies

The following section contains short biographies of the Global Forum for Inclusion speakers. The biographies come in a variety of forms and are written in easy read guidance.

We invite you to take a look at the biographies. We hope this will help you to get a first impression of the varying fields of expertise and personal dedications of the speakers.





### **Haseeb Abbasi**

**Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM)  
SO Pakistan**

Haseeb Abbasi is a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger representing the Asia Pacific region. Haseeb's achievements extend beyond sports. He spoke at TEDx, authored a book, and visited schools across Pakistan to promote understanding and inclusion. He hosts a web channel show called „Taraay Zameen Par“ (Stars on Earth) to advocate for inclusivity. Despite facing job rejections, he persevered and now serves as the CEO of his juice shop, „Squeezy - The Juice Bar,“ aiming to create opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to achieve financial independence.

Session information: Page 31



### **Dr. Lydia Abela**

**Wife of the Prime Minister  
Malta**

Lydia Abela is the wife of the Prime Minister of Malta Dr Robert Abela. Throughout her legal career, she specialised in Family law, Constitutional law and Environmental law. In 2010, Dr. Lydia was appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Partit Laburista. She is inspired by women from all walks of life, who are truly committed to improve the lives of others. She was appointed as the President of Special Olympics Malta in March 2021. In May 2022, Malta hosted the Special Olympics Invitational Games in which Dr Abela played a crucial role in ensuring the Games were a success.

Session information: Page 52



## Peter Ackred

**CEO**

**Disability Sports Coach, United Kingdom**

Peter Ackred established Disability Sports Coach in 2005. This registered charity is an award-winning provider of sport and physical activity for people with disabilities. Since its inception, the organization has coached over 60,000 people with disabilities, trained 6,000 sports coaches across 300 courses, and established a network of 14 Community Clubs in 13 London Boroughs.

Session information: Page 48



## Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

**Director General**

**World Health Organization (WHO)**

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the World Health Organization's Director-General and led the most significant transformation in the organization's history. Most recently, Dr Tedros served as Ethiopia's Minister of Health and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well many leadership positions in global health. Dr Tedros shares a passion for inclusive health and can be summed up as: "Our vision is not health for some. It's not health for most. It's health for all: rich and poor, able and disabled, old and young, urban and rural, citizen and refugee. Everyone, everywhere."

Session information: Page 91





## **Maryam Ahmad Thyab**

**Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM)  
SO Kuwait**

Maryam Ahmad Thyab is a 22-year-old athlete leader from Kuwait and a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger representing the Middle East North Africa region. She is passionate about promoting inclusion and ending discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities. Her expertise lies in using her strong personality and advocacy skills to drive change in her community and spread awareness about disability rights. She wants to share her experiences, insights, and aspirations to create a more inclusive world that values and respects everyone, regardless of their abilities.

Session information: Page 52



## **Her Excellency Shamma Al Mazrui**

**Minister of Community Development  
UAE**

Shamma Al Mazrui is the UAE Minister of Community Development, responsible for representing youth issues and setting development plans for improving youth capabilities. Her expertise lies in public policy analysis and strategic affairs. It is important for Shamma Al Mazrui to speak at the Global Forum for Inclusion because she holds a key position in the UAE government focused on disability affairs; her insights and strategies can contribute to promoting inclusion and addressing the needs of young people with disabilities, on a global scale.

Session information: Page 54

## Sven Albrecht

**CEO, SOWG Berlin 2023 Local Organizing Committee,  
CEO, SO Germany**

Sven Albrecht is the CEO of Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 and the CEO of Special Olympics Germany.

Session information: Page 31 and 54



## Fabio Araujo

**Secretary of Parasport  
Ministry of Sports, Brazil**

Fabio Araujo is the Brazilian National Secretary for Para Sports and has a career in the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He specializes in public policies for inclusive sports and holds advanced degrees in Sports Management and Global Sports. His expertise in international relations and experience in various countries make him a key supporter of inclusive sports globally.

Session information: Page 80





## **Victoria Arlen**

**ESPN SportsCenter Host, SOI Global Ambassador  
Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Victoria Arlen is an ESPN SportsCenter host, reporter, author, and Special Olympics International Global Ambassador. Her journey with disability is personal. At 11 years old, Victoria became paralyzed and couldn't eat, talk, or move. Doctors thought there was no hope for her. But Victoria came back! She learned how to eat and talk again and used a wheelchair to get around. In 2016, Victoria took her first step again. By 2017, she was on the U.S. Dancing with the Stars!

Session information: Page 30 and 31



## **Dr. Skye Arthur-Banning**

**Fellow**

**US Center for Mental Health & Sport, USA**

Dr. Skye Arthur-Banning is the Director of Research & Development at the U.S. Center for Mental Health & Sport and an Associate Professor at Clemson University. He specializes in research related to sport for development, mental health and sport, and Para/adaptive sport programs. His extensive expertise and experience enable him to contribute valuable insights and knowledge on promoting inclusive practices in sports, addressing mental health challenges, and advancing Para/adaptive sports programs.

Session information: Page 78

## Hanna Joy Atkinson

**Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM)  
SO Colorado, USA**

Hanna Joy Atkinson, a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger representing the North America region. Hanna is an inspirational athlete and advocate. She has overcome leukemia and found her passion for skiing and competing with Special Olympics Colorado. Hanna's expertise lies in promoting inclusion, acts of kindness, and healthy living, and she actively shares her experiences through speaking engagements, videos, and writing articles. She inspires others with her journey of resilience, acceptance, and the power of community, spreading joy and empowering individuals to embrace life fully.

Session information: Page 80



## Genevieve Bamwidhukire

**National Director SO Uganda,  
Sport for Development Trainer, Uganda**

Sport for Development Project in Uganda

Genevieve is the National Director of Special Olympics Uganda. Before becoming the National Director she worked as the Administrator at Special Olympics Uganda supporting the various initiatives in the program.

Genevieve is an advocate for disability inclusion and has worked on projects with UNICEF, UNFPA and District Local governments supporting inclusion of person with intellectual disabilities in education and health services. Inclusion to me means empowering the population that we need to include to be able to achieve meaningful involvement in their communities.

Session information: Page 50





### **Caitlin Baran**

**Athlete Leadership Coordinator, Special Olympics International (SOI); Athlete, SO Pennsylvania**

Caitlin Baran is the Athlete Leadership Coordinator at Special Olympics International and a Special Olympics athlete from Pennsylvania, USA. Since joining Special Olympics, Caitlin has participated in athletics, bocce, flag football, golf, swimming, and tennis. In 2019 Caitlin began her leadership development journey and one of her proudest moments was speaking to an audience of over 4,000 at the 2019 Special Olympics Fall Festival.

Session information: Page 36



### **Dr. Katarina Barley**

**Vice President**

**European Parliament**

Dr. Katarina Barley is Vice-President of the European Parliament and works in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the European elections in May 2019 she was the lead candidate of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD). Prior to that, she was - among other - Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and Federal Minister for Justice and Consumer Protection. Through politics, she wants to promote the Rule of Law in Europe and fights for equality and a just society.

Session information: Page 31 and 32

© www.katarina-barley.de

### **Salihin Bin Nawawi**

**Global Youth Leadership Council**

**SO Singapore**

Salihin Bin Nawawi is a 24-year-old fourth year student at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) in Singapore. Salihin has been involved with Special Olympics for 12 years as an athlete leader. He served on the Special Olympics Singapore Council from 2018 to 2020. Salihin has facilitated service events within his school and community. He is part of Unified generation because he believes that youth with and without disability have the powers innovation and driver to make meaningful impact in the world. He is passionate about educating his peers on the value and importance of inclusion.

Session information: Page 32



### **HRH Prince Mired bin Raad Zeid**

**Al-Hussein**

**The Lord Chamberlain of Jordan**

HRH Prince Mired, the Lord Chamberlain of Jordan and the second son of Prince Ra'ad bin Zeid, has a distinguished career in military and diplomatic roles. He is an expert in promoting the acceptance of the Convention on the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines. His extensive experience includes serving as the Chair of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation and leading initiatives for disabled soldiers and persons with disabilities.

Session information: Page 38





### **Birgitte Bischoff Ebbesen**

**Regional Director**

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Europe**

Birgitte Bischoff Ebbesen is the Regional Director for Europe at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). She is responsible for coordinating and providing humanitarian assistance to 53 National Societies in Europe and Central Asia. With over 15 years of experience, she has expertise in areas such as strategic coordination, humanitarian diplomacy, and psychosocial support, promoting inclusive humanitarian practices and addressing the mental health needs of affected populations in crisis situations.

Session information: Page 52



### **Dr. Dirk Bruland**

**Research Associate, Health Department**

**Hochschule Bielefeld – University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSBI), Germany**

I am a health researcher at the Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences and Arts.

My focus is on health promotion, especially health literacy.

Everyone has the right to the best possible health. Health literacy research makes it possible to reduce the gaps in health inequalities. To me, mitigating inequities is part of inclusion.

Session information: Page 64



### Kiera Byland

#### **Athlete Leader**

#### **SO Great Britain**

Kiera Byland is a Special Olympics athlete from Great Britain and a member of the Global Athlete Leadership Council (GALC). She has achieved remarkable success in cycling, swimming, and has won multiple gold medals at the Special Olympics World Games. She is a dedicated advocate for inclusion. Kiera's expertise lies in sports and teaching, as she holds qualifications in cycling instruction and swimming teaching. She serves as an inspiration to both her peers and people of all ages, motivating them to pursue their dreams with determination and hard work.

Session information: Page 68



### Prof. Dr. Bart Cambré

#### **Associate Dean, Research and Valorization, Professor, Business Research Methods, Antwerp Management School**

Bart Cambré is Associate Dean Research and Valorization of Antwerp Management School and professor of business research methods at Antwerp Management School and the University of Antwerp. His current research involves organizational networks, inclusion, and research methods, mainly focusing on bringing together academic insights and practical management needs. He is an invited speaker and facilitator at academic and professional conferences, and advises organizations on issues of networks, inclusion, and data quality.

Session information: Page 62





## **Catherine Carty**

**UNESCO Chair project manager**

**Munster Technological University, Ireland**

Catherine Carty is the UNESCO Chair Manager on Inclusive Sport at Munster Technological University. She is an internationally renowned expert in advancing inclusive policies and actions in sports, focusing on human rights, sustainable development, and leaving no one behind. Catherine's extensive involvement in global initiatives and organizations contributes to discussions on inclusive physical activity, sport, and policy approaches for the benefit of all.

Session information: Page 80



## **Iván Castellanos Nájera**

**National Program Associate**

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Mexico**

Ivan Castellanos works as a National Program Associate on Population, Development, and Youth at UNFPA Mexico. He focuses on various topics such as Human Development, Population trends, Youth Rights, and Public Policy. Ivan's extensive experience in population, development, and youth issues allow him to contribute valuable insights and expertise to discussions on inclusive policies and equality.

Session information: Page 38

## Carolyn Chamberlin

**CEO**

**SO Nebraska, USA**

Carolyn Chamberlin has been President and CEO of Special Olympics Nebraska. Carolyn spearheaded the Unified Champion Schools which fosters inclusive activities in 240 schools. Carolyn currently serves as the chair of the Special Olympics United States Leadership Council Program Committee, overseeing nationwide efforts in Health, Leadership, Virtual Programming, Unified Champion Schools, and Community programs.

Session information: Page 54



## Dr. Dimitri Christakis

**Vice President, Global Health Promotion,  
Prevention, and Policy Advocacy, Special Olympics  
International (SOI), USA**

Special Olympics International (SOI), USA

Dimitri Christakis is a pediatrician at Seattle Children's Hospital and a professor at the University of Washington. His area of expertise is studying the impact of early experiences on children's development and helping parents create better learning environments for their children. In his role as Vice President of Global Health Promotion, Prevention, and Policy Advocacy at Special Olympics, he contributes valuable insights and expertise in promoting the health and well-being of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Session information: Page 76





### **Nathaniel Cook**

**Vice President of Information Management and Technology Advancement, SO Washington, USA**

Nathaniel Cook has been leading successful implementation and development teams for 20 years across multiple industries. He is an expert in digital transformation and innovation and has led many high impact transformation projects. He is currently VP of Information Management and Technology Advancement, Special Olympics Washington where he strives to ensure technology and people meet to create opportunities.

Session information: Page 60



### **Dr. Wiebke Curdt**

**Research assistant, Faculty of Educational Science University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany**

Special Olympics Germany in Hamburg was my first working place. Then I worked at different universities in Germany. My areas of expertise are adult education and people with learning difficulties and participatory research. Inclusion in adult education and lifelong learning is relevant because of the barriers and the lack of possibilities in learning especially for adults with learning difficulties.

Session information: Page 74

## Helena Dalli

### **European Commissioner for Equality**

#### **European Commission**

Helena Dalli is a Maltese politician and Member of Parliament. Throughout her career, Dalli has focused on areas such as European affairs, equality, human rights, migrant integration, industrial relations, social dialogue, and occupational health and safety. Notably, she led the establishment of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and coordinated the EU's signature of the Istanbul Convention during Malta's Presidency of the Council of the EU. Dalli has been recognized for her work with awards such as the European Diversity Award and the Diversa Internacional.

Session information: Page 91



## Charmaine Daniels

### **CEO**

#### **DIGICEL Foundation, Caribbean**

Charmaine Daniels has a successful career in the Digital Communication Industry, specifically in strategic planning, networking, and operations. As the head of the Digicel Foundation, her expertise lies in developing strategic partnerships to create a more inclusive and caring society, building inclusive initiatives, and advocating for the importance of digital communication in fostering inclusivity and social impact.

Session information: Page 60





### **Mary Davis**

#### **CEO, Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Mary Davis is the Chief Executive Officer of Special Olympics. She has been a longtime leader within the Special Olympics movement and currently leads an international team of over 330 professionals throughout the world. Davis started with Special Olympics soon after college as a local program volunteer and coach. Since then, she accomplished a great deal in a series of leadership roles, including serving as CEO of Special Olympics Ireland and the 2003 Special Olympics Games in Ireland, and President & Managing Director of Europe Eurasia for eight years.

Session information: Page 31



### **Nyasha Derera**

#### **Associate Dean, Research and Valorization, Professor, Business Research Methods, Antwerp Management School**

Nyasha Derera, from Zimbabwe, is a leader within Special Olympics and serves as the Chairperson of the Global Athlete Congress and a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger representing the Africa region. He is an accomplished athlete and a Global Health Messenger, promoting health and fitness. Nyasha is an inspiring motivational speaker, sharing his personal story of overcoming challenges and spreading messages of hope and inclusion.

Session information: Page 60

## Dr. Shi Derong

**SOI Board member, Chairperson Senior Advisory Council – SAC**

**Special Olympics International SOI, Senior Advisory Council – SAC, SO East Asia**

Dr. Shi Derong has a diverse career that includes roles as the Bureau Chief of the Civic Affairs Bureau in Shanghai and the Co-founder and Chief Investment Officer of China Development Bank Root-Well Industrial Fund Management Co., Ltd. His area of expertise lies in implementing policies to support social and economic development, with a specific focus on creating opportunities for people with disabilities in areas like employment and education. Dr. Shi has been involved with Special Olympics for a long time and strives to raise awareness and promote equal rights for individuals with disabilities.

Session information: Page 54



## Prof. Dr. Gudrun Doll-Teppe

**Professor of Inclusive Education, Physical Activity and Sport Freie Universität Berlin, Germany**

Gudrun Doll-Teppe is currently chairperson of the German Olympic Academy in Frankfurt and the German Sport & Olympia Museum in Cologne.

After having been the President of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) from 1997 to 2008, she is its Honorary President since 2016. Gudrun is engaged in various activities within the Special Olympics Movement.

Session information: Page 80





## Margaret Domka

**Executive Director**

**US Center for Mental Health & Sport, USA**

Margaret Domka is the Executive Director of the U.S. Center for Mental Health & Sport. Her expertise lies in the intersection of mental health and sports, and she is currently pursuing a PhD in this field at Clemson University. Her work is crucial in bringing mental health awareness and initiatives to various sports organizations, including those serving military veterans, individuals with paralysis, and Paralympic and Special Olympic athletes.

Session information: Page 78



## Jürgen Dusel

**The Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities**

**German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS)**

Jürgen Dusel has been The Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities since 2018.

His task is to ensure equal living conditions for people with and without disabilities.

Jürgen Dusel has a motto: „Democracy needs inclusion“: Democracy and inclusion belong together. All people are needed. And all people are worth the same. All people are allowed to participate in everything. And they should also have the same opportunities.

Session information: Page 31

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Henning Schacht



### **Emanuelle Dutra de Souza**

**Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM)  
SO Brazil**

Emanuelle Dutra de Souza, also known as Manu, is an Special Olympics Brazil athlete and a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger representing Latin America. She uses her voice to uplift people with intellectual disabilities and represents the fight for inclusion in Brazil. Manu's expertise lies in encouraging active participation and empowering other athletes to reach their full potential. She believes in action-oriented inclusion and wants to see athletes occupying spaces, being heard, and included in society.

Session information: Page 34



### **Matt English**

**CEO**

**SO Ireland**

Matt English is the CEO of Special Olympics Ireland and has a background in finance, having held senior positions in multinational companies. His expertise lies in financial management and organizational leadership. Matt was involved in the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin and advocates for the importance of inclusive sports and the positive impact it has on individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Session information: Page 54





## Jochen Flasbarth

**State Secretary**

**German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**

Jochen Flasbarth took office as State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in December 2021. From 2013 to 2021, he was State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Prior to that, he held the position of President of the Federal Environment Agency for four years. He holds a degree in economics from the Universities of Münster and Bonn. To me, within inclusion we are not talking about „charity“ but about the rights and abilities of every individual, whether they have a disability or not.

Session information: Page 32



## Andrea Florez Jurado

**Research Associate, Strategy and Content**

**Futurium - The House of Futures, Germany**

I am a biologist and for some years have worked in museum exhibitions.

One aspect of my work has been research of content. Another aspect is to look for ways to make the exhibition's content more accessible for all. Inclusion is continuous work that lives from communication. That is why I am happy to take place at a session where the exchange of thoughts with everyone present is the main goal.

Session information: Page 36

## **Dr. Petra Frehe-Halliwel**

**Professor, Business Educational Studies  
University of Jena, Germany**

After an apprenticeship to become a bank clerk, I went to Paderborn University to study Business Educational Studies. I studied and worked at the University of Paderborn for 10 Years until I started as a Professor at the University of Jena in 2019.

Session information: Page 44



## **Prof. Eman Gaad**

**Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor  
of Special and Inclusive Education  
British University in Dubai, UAE**

Eman Gaad is a professor and the Dean of the Faculty of Education at the British University in Dubai. She specializes in Special and Inclusive Education and has extensive experience in leading academic programs and conducting research in this field. Her expertise and contributions to inclusive education include advocating for inclusive practices and contributes to the advancement of social development worldwide.

Session information: Page 32 and 52





## Anne Gachoya

**Deputy Director for Policy and East Africa Partnerships,  
Ministry of Education, Kenya**

Anne Gachoya is a Deputy Director of Education at the Ministry of Education in Kenya, responsible for coordinating education policies and the development of strategic plans. With her expertise in educational planning and policy formulation, she plays a crucial role in ensuring quality assurance and standards in the education sector. She contributes valuable insights on inclusive education and policy implementation, promoting equal access and opportunities for all learners.

Session information: Page 80



## His Excellency Luis Gallegos

**Former Foreign Minister, Former Ecuadorian  
Ambassador to the United Nations (UN), Ecuador**

Ambassador Luis Gallegos is a distinguished diplomat, human rights advocate, and academic. He held prominent positions within the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs including as ambassador. He represented Ecuador as a permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva and New York. Ambassador Gallegos currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors of the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) as well as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Global UN Partnership for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ICT).

Session information: Page 92

### Elisa Gärtner

**Program Consultant**

**Futurium - The House of Futures, Germany**

At Futurium, I design the event program for visitors of the House of Futures. My expertise is in science communication and the development of projects with partners from science and society. To me, inclusion means that every person has access to the knowledge they need to drive their vision forward.

Session information: Page 36



### Eva Gazova

**National Director**

**SO Slovakia**

Eva Gazova is the National Director of Special Olympics, Slovakia. She previously served as Chair of the Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Leadership Council. Eva is an experienced professional in sport management, sport marketing, sponsorship, and volunteer management. She has 27 years of experience in leadership and organizational qualities in sport on an international and national level.

Session information: Page 58





## **Beniam Gebrezghi**

**Program Specialist Civil Society & Youth  
UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, Thailand**

Beniam Gebrezghi is a Program Specialist with 20 years of experience in international development cooperation. He specializes in youth empowerment, diversity and inclusion, and civil society engagement, providing support to 36 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. His expertise in these areas is important when promoting youth empowerment, fostering diversity and inclusion, and engaging civil society to create inclusive societies.

Session information: Page 56 and 84



## **Eric Braun**

**Co-Founder and CFO Eye-Able**

Eric Braun is an accomplished economist with a profound understanding of the intricate dynamics between digital accessibility and economic viability. Over the past years, he has diligently served as the Chief Financial Officer and one of the founding members of an innovative enterprise committed to revolutionizing the accessibility of digital content. His goal in the age of digitalization is to make all digital content more accessible to people, and to do so on an individual level for each person.

**Note:** Due to a last minute change, this speaker is not in alphabetical order but just replaces the person who was originally scheduled to speak.

Session information: Page 60

### Barbara Grewe

**International Director  
Lions Clubs International**

Barbara Grewe, a retired lawyer from Hanstedt/Weihe, Germany, has dedicated her career to service and humanitarian work. She has been actively involved in Lions Clubs International since 1977. Director Grewe's expertise lies in leadership development and coordination of projects, and she has received numerous awards and honors for her outstanding service. She has valuable insights on fostering inclusion and empowering individuals through her extensive experience in organizations like Special Olympics and her commitment to humanitarian causes.

Session information: Page 58



### Ben Haack

**Workplace Readiness and Inclusion Consultant,  
Special Olympics International (SOI), Athlete Leader,  
SO Australia**

Ben Haack has a successful career as an athlete leader in Special Olympics Australia. His area of expertise lies in representing athletes and advocating for their rights and inclusion. He brings the perspective of Special Olympics athletes, sharing their experiences and highlighting the importance of inclusivity in sports and society.

Session information: Page 54 and 66





### **Ian Harper**

**Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM)  
SO Great Britain**

Ian Harper is a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger from Great Britain, representing the Europe Eurasia Region. He is an athlete and former Chair of the Athlete Leadership Team for Special Olympics Great Britain. Ian's expertise lies in advocating for athletes with disabilities and promoting their voice, leadership, and inclusion within Special Olympics programs. He inspires other athletes and works towards the Inclusion Revolution by collaborating with government programs, community partners, and businesses worldwide.

Session information: Page 30, 31, 38, 86, 90 and 94



### **Annika Hase**

**Deputy Head of Educational Activities  
Institute for Inclusive Education at University of Kiel,  
Germany**

I am the deputy head of educational activities at the Institute for Inclusive Education. We are at the University of Kiel. My colleagues and I give seminars and lectures about disability and inclusion. Spreading awareness about disability is very important to us.

Session information: Page 42



## Luise Haunit

**Adviser, Global Program Sport for Development and Peace**

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany**

Luise has worked in various roles for state- and non-state-actors in international development for the last 15 years. Currently she is responsible for administering a „Sport for Development“ fund.

Session information: Page 50



## Torsten Hilscher

**Department of International Sport-Relations, German Federal Foreign Office (AA)**

I have started working in the German Foreign Office in 1989. During my career I have been specialising on consular affairs and matters. In the meantime I am dealing with sports projects abroad. Inclusion has to be a strong aspect in nowadays societies, since no single person must be excluded from full participation in all areas of civil life

Session information: Page 82





## **Torsten Holzapfel**

**Artist**

**Thikwawerkstatt für Theater und Kunst, Germany**

I am an actor, performer and artist.

My areas of expertise is painting, architecture and german history. Inclusion is inevitable to reduce prejudices. It is important that people with disabilities have the same opportunities in society.

Session information: Page 36



## **Stephanie Jones**

**Gerald S. Lesser Professor in Early Childhood**

**Development**

**Harvard University, USA**

Stephanie Jones is a Gerald S. Lesser Professor in Early Childhood Development and the Director of the Harvard EASEL Lab. Her area of expertise lies in studying the impact of poverty and exposure to violence on the social, emotional, and behavioral development of children and youth. She will share her research findings and insights on the effects of these factors on children's well-being, contributing to the forum's discussions on creating inclusive environments and addressing the challenges faced by marginalized children and youth.

Session information: Page 76

### Shrey Kadian

**Athlete Leader**

**SO Bharat (India)**

Shrey Kadian is a Special Olympics athlete and member of the Global Athlete Leadership Council (GALC). He is an expert in sports and has excelled in softball, winning a gold medal at the Special Olympics World Summer Games. He brings first-hand experience as an athlete and advocate for people with intellectual disabilities, and his expertise in sports and leadership can inspire and educate others on the power of inclusion.

Session information: Page 68



### Marie Kehoe-O'Sullivan

**National Disability Specialist**

**Health Service Executive (HSE), Ireland**

Marie Kehoe-O'Sullivan is a nurse by profession and currently leads quality improvement initiatives for people with disabilities in Ireland. Her area of expertise is in Quality Improvement in health and social care. She believes that we are all people of abilities and that it is critical that we see each other's abilities. She encourages everyone to live to their full potential.

Session information: Page 40





## **Dina Klingmann**

**Adviser, Global Program Sport for Development and Peace**

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany**

In her professional work, Dina Klingmann focuses on the field of Development Cooperation and Sport.

She has a background in Sport Science and Sport Politics. To be at the Global Forum is important to her, as we have to encounter us again and again

Session information: Page 50



## **Prof. Dr. H.-Hugo Kremer**

**Professor, Business and Human Resource Education  
University of Paderborn, Germany**

I started my career with an apprenticeship and studies in business and human resource education. I taught at various universities (Cologne, Munich, Constance, Leeds). Since 2004 I have a professorship at Paderborn University.

Teaching and learning in vocational education and training as well as personalized learning in pre-vocational training are two of my research topics. For me, inclusive education is a driver for diversity, individual development, and social justice.

Session information: Page 44

### Dr. Heike Kuhn

**Head of Division, Education**

**German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ)**

Dr. Heike Kuhn is heading the Division “Education” in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). As a fully qualified lawyer she has more than 30 years of experience in human rights, gender, inclusion, education and has worked on the SDGs. She believes in the diversity of talents - realizing the promises of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is our common duty. From her perspective no one should still have to fight or appeal for his or her rights – the sooner, the better.

Session information: Page 50



### Dr. Heike Kundisch

**Postdoc, Business and Human Resource Education**

**University of Paderborn, Germany**

I am an educator, trainer, strengths coach, organizational developer and a researcher in vocational education and training.

My area of expertise is training and development.

Inclusion is important because you are important!

Inclusion is important because every one of us is important!

Session information: Page 44





### **Mike Lake**

#### **Member of Parliament, Canada**

Mike Lake is a long-serving Member of Parliament in Canada, representing Edmonton-Wetaskiwin. He has expertise in various areas, including youth, sport, accessibility, international development, mental health, addictions, and suicide prevention. He is an advocate for autism organizations and neurodiverse individuals, having personal experience with his own son who has autism; he shares his story to raise awareness and support for families and individuals with autism.

Session information: Page 62



### **Jeff Lahart**

#### **Manager, Coaching Development**

#### **Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Jeff Lahart is the Manager, Coach Development for Special Olympics International. Jeff works on coaching resources and various projects using sport as a development tool. Jeff is also a UEFA A Licensed football (soccer) coach and has experience working with underage international squads for his native Ireland. Having gone through the coach development pathway in football, Jeff knows the power of coach education and the need for support of coaches starting out their coaching journey, and those that look to continue their development throughout their lifetime as a coach.

Session information: Page 68

### Yang Lan

**Yang Lan, Chairperson, Sun Media Group & Sun Culture Foundation, Board Member, Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Yang Lan is a leading broadcast journalist, media entrepreneur, and Co-founder/Chairperson of Sun Media Group and Sun Culture Foundation. She gained fame as the host of CCTV's „Zhengda Variety Show“ and created the long-running talk show „Yang Lan One on One.“ Yang Lan has also served as MC and moderator for prestigious events like the Beijing Olympic Games, Shanghai Expo, and World Economic Forum. She is the first Chinese UNICEF Ambassador, Vice-Chairman of China Charity Alliance, and has received numerous awards.

Session information: Page 86, 90 and 94



### Nico Leonhardt

**Research Associate, Faculty of Education  
University of Leipzig, Germany**

I am a special needs teacher and research assistant. I have been involved in inclusive education in schools and universities for many years. It is so important to me because it is everyone's right that human rights are implemented.

Session information: Page 70



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### **Susan Liautaud**

**Vice Chair**

**Global Partnership for Education**

Dr. Susan Liautaud is the Founder and Managing Director of a prestigious advisory firm, where she advises corporate, non-profit, academic, and governmental entities. She is the visionary behind The Ethics Incubator, a groundbreaking non-profit platform that facilitates collaboration among diverse sectors to address ethical dilemmas and generate solutions. Through her advisory work, writing, teaching, and advocacy for ethical leadership, she has become a highly influential figure in shaping the ethical landscape worldwide.

Session information: Page 32



### **Anni Lindeman**

**University teacher**

**University of Jyväskylä, Finland**

I got involved with Special Olympics in 2018 and right away fell in love with the togetherness and joy of inclusion!

Ever since I have been participating in SO in different roles: as a Youth Leader, Athletics Coach, Athlete Leader coach and now as the Assistant Head of Delegation for SO Finland here in Berlin 2023.

Back at home in Finland I am working as a university teacher in the fields of sport pedagogy and adapted physical activity.

Session information: Page 92



### Hamchetou Maiga-Ba

**Chairperson, SO Mali, Board of Directors, Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Hamchetou Maiga-Ba is a former WNBA and Africa champion who founded the Hamchetou Maiga-Ba Foundation and restored the credibility of Special Olympics Mali. Her expertise lies in fighting discrimination and exclusion, particularly for individuals with intellectual disabilities, by providing them opportunities to participate in sports and access specialized health programs. Her focus has been to promote unity and inclusion and inspire others to create inclusive environments for people with disabilities in the world of sports and beyond.

Session information: Page 52



### Heidi Mallett

**Chair, SOI Global Athlete Leadership Council, Athlete, SO Canada**

Heidi Mallett is an athlete and leader from Alberton, Prince Edward Island, Canada. She has been part of Special Olympics for 15 years and believes in advocating for herself and those who cannot. Heidi has taken on multiple leadership roles, including People First of Canada, PEI People First (past president), Special Olympics Canada Athletes' Leadership Council, Special Olympics PEI Board of Directors, and Global Athlete Leadership Council (GALC), where she was elected chair in June 2021.

Session information: Page 92





### **Renee Manfredi**

**Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM)  
SO Texas, USA**

Renee Manfredi is a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger representing North America and is an accomplished Special Olympics athlete who advocates for inclusion and acceptance of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). She shares her personal experiences of facing hardships and exclusion to inspire change and promote inclusive health. With her leadership roles in Special Olympics and other organizations, Renee is a powerful voice for individuals with IDD, emphasizing their abilities and the importance of providing opportunities for them to showcase their talents.

Session information: Page 62



### **Brina Maxino**

**Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM)  
SO Philippines**

Brina Maxino is a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger from the Philippines, representing the Asia Pacific Region. She is also a trained Health Messenger. Outside of Special Olympics, she is an Assistant Teacher, a commercial model, an actress, an inspirational speaker, and an advocate of Inclusive Education. She was selected as a Global Youth Ambassador for Special Olympics, representing the Asia Pacific Region during the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games and the 2015 World Games. She believes as a Unified generation, we must stand together and declare that all people matter!

Session information: Page 40 and 92

### Gerald Mballe

**Advisor, SO Unified with Refugees Program  
Special Olympics Europe Eurasia (SOEE)**

Gerald Mballe is Special Olympics' first-ever Advisor for the Unified with Refugees program, helping further strengthen and expand the reach and impact of the initiative. Gerald was first introduced to the world of Special Olympics in 2015 in Turin, Italy as a legally resettled refugee, after fleeing Cameroon as an unaccompanied minor due to several attacks by Boko Haram. His trajectory since has been an inspiration fueled by hard work and a passion for inclusion, equality, and acceptance.

Session information: Page 58



### Maureen McCormick

**SOI Global Ambassador  
Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Maureen McCormick is an accomplished actor, singer, and New York Times best-selling author. While Maureen has always been passionate about her career in entertainment, what is most dear to her heart is advocating the importance of inclusivity on behalf of her brother Denny and the millions of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) worldwide. Maureen is a Special Olympics Global Ambassador and continues to give freely of her time to support this mission of inclusion, and she is committed to making a significant impact in ending discrimination against people with ID.

Session information: Page 38





### **Blair McIntosh**

**Vice President Sports  
SO Canada**

Blair McIntosh has a remarkable career in Canadian amateur sport spanning over 40 years and a deep passion for sports in the country. His expertise lies in leadership and management within the Canadian sport system, with extensive experience as Chef de Mission for various national and provincial teams, as well as involvement in multi-sport games and bid evaluations. His knowledge and accomplishments have had a positive impact on amateur sports in Canada, including the Paralympic movement, and his insights can contribute to promoting inclusivity in sports on a global scale.

Session information: Page 66



### **Fiona Murray**

**Director, Coaching and Education  
Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Fiona Murray has focused on coaching and education, specifically in the context of Special Olympics. She has extensive experience as a Coach Tutor and Sport Volunteer with Special Olympics Ireland. Her expertise relies on coaching and education for individuals with intellectual disabilities, contributing to the broader conversation on inclusion and empowerment.

Session information: Page 68

## Dr. Dorothy Nakato Mubezi

**Co-founder and Executive Director**

**Uganda National Self-Advocacy Initiative (UNSAI)**

Dorothy is a Researcher on Disability issues and a Social Entrepreneur. She won an award at Zero Project 2023 for her Inclusive Innovative and Scalable solution called „Support My Choice“. It aims to reintegrate persons with psychosocial disabilities back in their communities for their choices.

Dorothy is a woman with psychosocial disabilities and a Survivor of Psychiatric Institutions. Her motto is: there is no Inclusion if persons with disabilities are still institutionalized.



Session information: Page 38

## Charles Nyambe

**Regional President & Managing Director**

**SO Africa**

Charles Nyambe is the Regional President and Managing Director in Africa overseeing program operations to 38 countries in Africa. Charles began his involvement with the Special Olympics movement in 1998. Charles background begin in sport at the local level where he went on to achieve many accomplishments include qualifying as a FIBA International referee and in late 2021, the Namibian Sport Commission nominated him to receive the prestigious Lifetime National Award, the highest award of an individual for contributing to sport development in the country.



Session information: Page 66



## **Apolo Ohno**

**SOI Global Ambassador**

**Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Apolo Ohno is a successful Olympian in short track speedskating, winning eight medals, including two golds. He started skating at 12 years old and quickly became a national champion. As a Special Olympics Global Ambassador, he promotes inclusion in sports and can share valuable insights at the Global Forum for Inclusion

Session information: Page 80



## **Mara Oprea**

**Co-Chair, Global Youth Leadership Council**

**SO Romania**

Mara Oprea, a 20-year-old from Arad, Romania, is a recent high school graduate and a passionate dancer and swimmer. She has been a Special Olympics athlete for 11 years recently joined the Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Youth Leadership Council alongside her sister. Through Special Olympics Mara implemented a community project through Special Olympics. Working with her sister, Anca, brings her joy, and she believes in the significance of inclusion for everyone. Mara aims to promote awareness about inclusion through her work in the Global Youth Leadership Council.

Session information: Page 91

### Anca Oprea

**Co-Chair, Global Youth Leadership Council  
SO Romania**

Anca Oprea, a 23-year-old support teacher from Arad, Romania, has dedicated herself to Special Olympics for 9 years as a volunteer and 2 years as a member of a Youth Leadership Unified Team. In January 2021, Anca and her sister Mara joined the Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Youth Leadership Council. Being part of the Global Youth Leadership Council is a great honor for Anca. She takes pride in promoting inclusion and believes her council work can make a difference in the world. Above all, she cherishes the opportunity to share every moment with her sister.

Session information: Page 91



### Franziska Otto

**Research Associate, Business and Human Resource  
Education**

**University of Paderborn, Germany**

I am a qualified teacher for vocational schools in Germany.

I now work as a research assistant and doctoral candidate.

My area of expertise focuses on the challenges and the potential the transition from school to work has for young people with wide-ranging needs and the teachers who work with them.

In my opinion, inclusion can focus on strengths rather than perceived weaknesses of the young people.

Session information: Page 44





### **Hannah Paton**

**Workforce Officer**

**Disability Sports Coach, United Kingdom**

My name is Hannah Paton and my position at Disability Sports Coach is workforce officer. I am responsible for creating and filling coaching opportunities for aspiring coaches of all abilities. I'm excited to discuss the learnings from our disabled coach qualification program, and explore the impact inclusion can have on all levels of sport.

Session information: Page 48



### **Claudia Peña Testa**

**Family Representative**

**SO Latin America**

Claudia Peña Testa is the Latin America representative on the Global Family Leadership Council and has dedicated her career to teaching for 35 years and has been involved with Special Olympics Mexico for 16 years as a volunteer. Her expertise lies in promoting inclusive practices and spreading awareness about the importance of inclusion. She brings firsthand experience as a teacher and a parent, highlighting the transformative power of collaboration and fostering an inclusive society.

Session information: Page 66



## Anne-Christin Plate

**Art Director**

**Thikwawerkstatt für Theater und Kunst, Germany**

I work as an artist and educator.

I love to draw, to work with textiles and to collaborate.

Inclusion is beautiful and necessary. It is important, because people and their needs are individual and diverse. There are no standards for people.

Session information: Page 36



## Rebecca Ralston

**Senior Director, Early Childhood and Preventive Health**

**Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Rebecca Ralston is the Senior Director of Early Childhood and Preventive Health at Special Olympics International. Her area of expertise lies in developing and implementing preventive health programs, including those focused on early childhood, families, fitness, and prevention. It is important for her to talk at the Global Forum for Inclusion because she can share her extensive experience and knowledge in promoting early childhood health and well-being, contributing to the forum's mission of creating inclusive environments for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Session information: Page 76





## **Amy Ramírez Estrada**

**Youth Leader**

**SO El Salvador**

Amy Ramirez is currently pursuing higher education in modern languages lives in San Salvador. Amy is part of the Unified Generation because she believes it is very important to ensure a future where those people in our society who for years have been ignored for their disabilities or differences are given a voice. That is why she seeks to join the youth who fight for equality worldwide to achieve, hand in hand with her scout philosophy, leave this world in better conditions than she found it.

Session information: Page 36



## **Danae Rodríguez Gatta**

**Fellow**

**The Missing Billion Initiative**

I am a doctoral student at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

I investigate how people with disabilities access health services in Latin America and the Caribbean.

I dream of a future with inclusive health systems that adapt to each person's needs.

Session information: Page 40

### Sara Rotenberg

**Fellow**

**The Missing Billion Initiative**

Sara Rotenberg is a Fellow at the Missing Billion Initiative and a PhD candidate at the University of Oxford, where she studies as a Rhodes Scholar. She works to make health systems more inclusive through better disability training for health workers. Sara's lived experience with disability has shown that we need to make health and education more accessible to people with disabilities.

Session information: Page 40



### Dr. Ulrich Roth

**Deputy chairman of the board**

**Würth Foundation, Germany**

I am currently deputy chairman of the board of the Würth Foundation.

I have knowledge in the area of financial services as well as the fields of our foundation which are inclusion, education, science, and many more.

For me, Inclusion makes the world much brighter and livable.

Session information: Page 62





### **Debra Maria Ruh**

**CEO & Founder, Ruh Global IMPACT, Billion Strong, USA**

Debra Ruh is an American businesswoman and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. She founded RuhGlobal IMPACT, Billion-Strong.org and TecAccess, a company that helps make tech accessible for all people. Debra also chairs the UN G3ict EmployAbility Task Force, which works to promote AT and assess countries' efforts to implement disability rights. She is dedicated to advancing accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities and using her expertise to make a positive impact.

Session information: Page 60



### **Simran Sahni**

**Global Youth Leadership Council**

**SO Singapore**

Simran Sahni is a 23-year-old social activist pursuing her fellowship with Teach For India. She currently teaches 60 students in a low-income government school and strives to shape them into more aware and inclusive citizens. She has worked with several NPOs and NGOs supporting different SDGs like gender equality, education, inclusion, environment, and mental health. Simran has worked at Special Olympics for the past 5 years, aiming to build an inclusive world. She believes in the power of inclusion and in practicing empathy and respect to make the world a better place.

Session information: Page 32

### Kim Samuel

**Founder & Chief Belonging Officer**

**Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness, Canada**

Kim Samuel is a member of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors and has an extensive career in business, philanthropy, and academic research, with a focus on social isolation and connectedness. Her expertise lies in addressing social isolation as a key aspect of poverty and human rights challenges globally. She aims to generate a global movement and identify policy solutions promoting social connectedness which foster inclusive communities worldwide.

Session information: Page 66



### Dr. Rolf Schmachtenberg

**State Secretary**

**German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS)**

Dr. Schmachtenberg is Permanent State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Germany. He is responsible for the areas Social Insurance/ Provision for Old Age, Participation/ Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities, Social Compensation/ Social Assistance and European Employment and Social Policy. After studies of Mathematics and study stays in the USA and Norway, he earned a doctorate in economics. He is glad, that Germany hosts the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023. They will drive forward inclusion in sports and by sports.

Session information: Page 92



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## **Prof. Dr. Silke Schreiber-Barsch**

**Full Professor in Adult Education, Faculty of Educational Sciences**

**University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany**

Silke is a Professor in Adult Education, exploring the issue of adults' learning.

Her area of expertise includes adult basic education, inclusive adult education, global citizenship education and international comparative adult education.

Inclusion is very important, because inclusive education does not end with school education, but is a lifelong and life wide journey.

Session information: Page 74



## **Timothy Shriver, PhD**

**Chairman**

**Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Timothy Shriver leads the Special Olympics International Board of Directors. He co-founded and currently chairs the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, President of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, President of the Sargent Shriver Peace Institute, co-founder of UNITE.us, and a member of the Bank of America International Advisory Board. He has produced four films, authored The New York Times bestselling book Fully Alive – Discovering What Matters Most, and has written for dozens of newspapers and magazines.

Session information: Page 31 and 91

### Kurtis Siu

**Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM)  
SO Hong Kong**

Kurtis Jon Siu is a graphic designer from Hong Kong, China, is a graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design. He currently works at a labelling company. As a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM) and former competitive figure skater, Kurtis uses his artistic skills to raise awareness for the talents of his fellow athletes. Through his artwork, leadership, and messages, he spreads the spirit of the Special Olympics community. Kurtis also provides guidance to intellectually disabled communities, addressing their concerns and encouraging self-advocacy.

Session information: Page 32



### Daniel Smrokowski

**Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM)  
SO Illinois, USA**

Daniel Smrokowski is a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger representing North America and is an award-winning podcaster and advocate who tells disability stories on his platform, Special Chronicles. He educates and raises awareness about the experiences of people with special needs through podcasts, videos, blogs, and public speaking. He promotes respect, gives a voice to individuals with different abilities, and highlights the joy and love they bring to our communities every day.

Session information: Page 34





### **Nick Sore**

**Senior Refugee Sports Coordinator  
UNHCR**

Nick Sore is the head of the Sport Section at the UN Refugee Agency in Geneva. He specializes in using the power of sports to support and empower people who have been forced to flee their homes. With over 20 years of experience, Nick has developed partnerships and worked with children and youth in various global contexts. His expertise in child protection and youth advocacy makes him an important voice to promote the rights and well-being of refugees and displaced populations through sports.

Session information: Page 58



### **Sven Spannekrebs**

**Executive Director & Co-Founder Yusra Mardini  
Foundation, PR-Manager, SOWG Berlin 2023, USA and  
Germany**

Sven is currently working for the Local Organizing Committee of the SOWG Berlin 2023. He is also the executive director and co-founder of the Yusra Mardini Foundation, focusing on using sports as a tool for development and integration for refugees. Sven strongly believes in the power of sports in the field of inclusion and integration because he constantly sees it working.

Session information: Page 58



### Milan Šveřepa

#### Director, Inclusion Europe

Milan Šveřepa is director of Inclusion Europe.

Inclusion Europe is an organisation of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Milan was co-chair of the EEG, European expert group on transition from institutional to community-based care (2017-2020; 2023)

Before he came to Inclusion Europe, Milan worked on replacing segregated “care” institutions for people with disabilities with community-based support.

This work took place in Czechia and in other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Session information: Page 38



### Rajah Diouri Sy

#### National Director

#### SO Senegal

Rajah Diouri Sy is the National Director of Special Olympics Senegal and a mother of a young woman with an intellectual disability. She has always fought for her daughter to be able to develop in an ordinary environment, without any restrictions. She wanted her daughter to receive professional training in hairdressing at a mainstream training centre. She believes deeply in the absolute necessity of adopting an inclusive approach. Speaking at the Global Forum on Inclusion is an opportunity for her to share her experience, both as a mother and a Program leader. This dual role has given her a global view of the issues.

Session information: Page 92





## **Prof. Dr. Heike Tiemann**

**Inclusive Education in Germany / Special Olympics**

**Germany Research Council**

**University of Leipzig, Germany**

I am a physical education teacher. Now I work at the university as a professor training future physical education teachers.

My area of expertise is inclusion in physical education.

In my session, I want to talk about that we can all do something to make inclusion work in physical education.

Session information: Page 72



## **Stefanie Trzecinski**

**Founder**

**Kopf, Hand + Fuss, Germany**

Stefanie is the founder and managing director of KOPF, HAND + FUSS, where she has been committed to the equal participation of people with disabilities for many years. Her vision: a society in which being different is normal. Some years ago, Stefanie founded the first inclusive Co-Working & Event Space in Germany.

Session information: Page 36

## Anouk van Hoofstadt

**Senior Researcher**

**Antwerp Management School, Belgium**

Anouk Van Hoofstadt is currently a Senior Research at the Antwerp Management School. Anouk has volunteered extensively with Special Olympics athletes and conducted research on the topic of inclusion in the regular economy. She has contributed to five inclusive study projects and co-authored various white papers and study reports. In 2022, Anouk received the European Citizen Prize for her project „My Talents. For Diversity.,“ recognizing her valuable contributions to the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.

Session information: Page 62



## Vanja Vrdinova

**Sport for Development Trainer (GIZ), North Macedonia**

I'm special educator in an elementary school and trainer for young athletes in Special Olympics North Macedonia. I have been involved in sports, especially swimming, since I was 6 years old. Inclusion is a motivational and bright spot in a chaotic and confusing society.

Session information: Page 50





## **Gabriela Velásquez Rodríguez**

**Youth Leader**

**SO El Salvador**

Gabriela Patricia Velásquez Rodríguez is a Special Olympics Athlete from Mejicanos, San Salvador. She trains in artistic gymnastics and has also been a Health Messenger for 3 years. She is currently studying an intermediate course in Salvadoran Sign Language (LESSA) at the Pedagogical University, to be able to communicate and teach children with language and hearing difficulties.

Session information: Page 36



## **Nils Sebastian Vetter**

**Research Associate, Health Department**

**Hochschule Bielefeld – University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSBI), Germany**

I studied nursing and public health. Since 2016 I am a research assistant at the University of Applied Science and Arts in Bielefeld. Currently I am doing a PhD. My working fields include health literacy and qualitative research methods.

For me, Inclusion is highly important to reduce social inequities between people with and without handicaps.

Session information: Page 64

## Haylie Wrubel

**Senior Director, Global Education Strategy and Programming**

**Special Olympics International (SOI)**

Haylie Wrubel is the Senior Director, Global Education Strategy and Programming at Special Olympics International. She is responsible for expanding Unified Champion Schools globally and developing educational strategies for the organization. With her expertise in international studies and special education, Haylie brings valuable insights and experience to discussions on inclusive education and advocates for the rights and well-being of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Session information: Page 46



## Samuel Wunsch

**Educational Specialist**

**Institute for Inclusive Education at University of Kiel, Germany**

I am working as an Educational Specialist at the Institute for Inclusive Education at the University of Kiel.

I give seminars and lectures to students about the lives and needs of people with disabilities.

Inclusion is very important to me. Because there is a lot of value to see and accept all the people in their diversity and individual strengths.

Session information: Page 42



## Messe – Hall 7.2 – Congresses

### Legend



**Entry**  
Eingang



**Eating Area**  
Ess-Bereich



**Hot Drinks**  
Heiße Getränke



**Stage**  
Bühne



**Lounge**

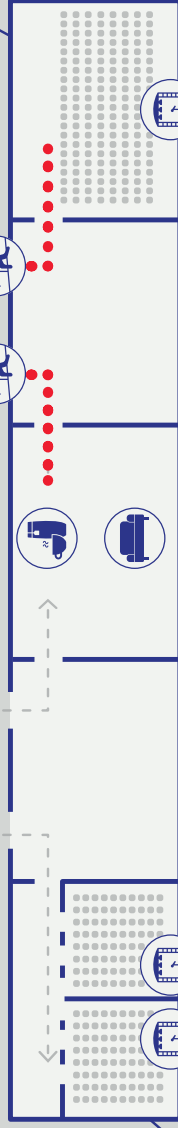
**Global  
Forum For  
Inclusion**  
Partnering For Action



## Entrance

**Global  
Athlete  
Congress**  
Leading Together

**Global Youth  
Leadership  
Summit**  
Activating Together



# Messe Berlin

## Legend



**Entry**  
Eingang



**Award Ceremonies**  
Sieger-Ehrungen



**First Aid**  
Erste Hilfe



**Healthy Athletes**  
Gesunder Athlet



**Info Point**  
Info Punkt



**Food and Drink**  
Essen und Trinken



**Bus Stop**  
Haltestelle



**MMC**  
**Main Media Centre**



**Buses and Trains**  
Bus und Bahn



**UDAC**  
**Uniform Distribution and Accreditation Center**



**Special Olympics Activity Zone**



**Sports Area**  
Spiel-Feld



**Toilets**  
Toiletten



**Athlete**  
Athleten



**Fan Shop**



**Accredited Groups**  
Akkreditierte Gruppen



**Special Olympics Festival**



**Sommergarten**



**Quiet Room and Prayer Room**  
Ruhe-Raum und Gebets-Raum



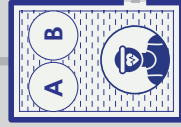
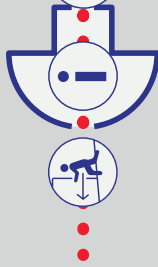
**Volunteer and Workforce**  
Helfer und Mitarbeiter



**S-Bahn Messe Süd**  
3 minutes / 240 m  
3 Minuten / 240 m

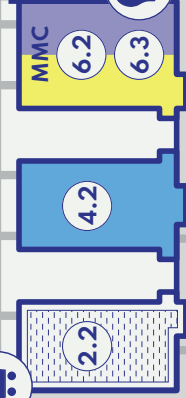
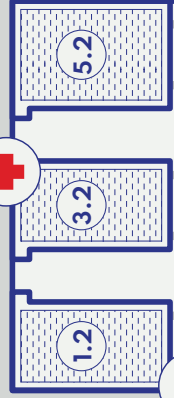


**South Entrance  
Süd Eingang**



**City  
Cube**

**Congresses**



**Palais am  
Funkturn**

**Sommergarten**



**S-Bahn  
Messe Nord / ICC**  
6 minutes / 450 m  
6 Minuten / 450 m



**U-Bahnhof  
Kaiserdamm**  
10 minutes / 750 m  
10 Minuten / 750 m



**Messedamm**

**1.2**

**Badminton  
Badminton**



**3.2**

**Bocce  
Boccia**



**21**

**22**

**23**

**Basketball  
Basketball**



**B**

**Gymnastics-Rhythmic  
and Gymnastics-Artistic**  
Rhythmische  
Sport-Gymnastik und  
Gerät-Turnen



**2.2**

**Tabletennis  
Tisch-Tennis**



**5.2**

**Powerlifting und Judo  
Kraft-Dreikampf und Judo**



**11.2**

**18**

**20**

**Volleyball  
Volleyball**



**10.1**

**10.2**

**11.2**

**UDAC**

**UDAC**

**UDAC**

**UDAC**

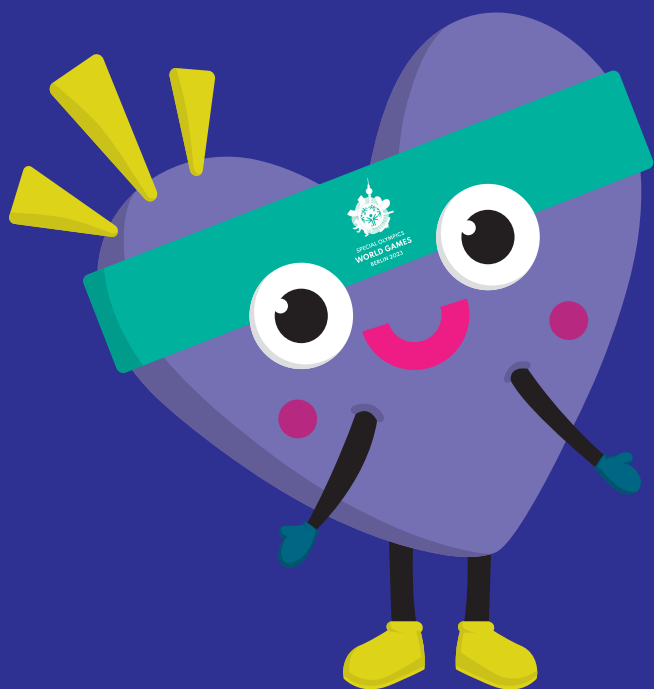
**UDAC**

**UDAC**

**UDAC**

**UDAC**







**Special Olympics**  
**World Games Berlin 2023**  
Organizing Committee gGmbH

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The content of this handbook reflects the  
planning status at the end of April 2023,  
subject to change

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