Biographies of speakers

10am – 11am: Opening segment highlighting several approaches for engaging marginalized communities as well as other stakeholders (such as governments, UN agencies and others) in participatory and inclusive practices.

Moderator: Jose Viera, Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and Executive Officer, WBU

Mr. José Viera is the Chief Executive Officer of the World Blind Union (WBU) since April 2018. He is also the Representative of the Representative of UN Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities for Sustainable Development. Previously, he was the WBU Human Rights Policy Advisor for two years, supporting more than 100 different national associations of the blind in advocacy work to promote inclusive and productive lives of blind people. Mr. Viera has been very active in the disability movement as President of the National Federation of the Blind in Argentina and as a former Secretary of Employment and Vocational Training of the Latin American Blind Union. He was recently appointed as Chair of the United Nations Stakeholder group of persons with disabilities, to monitor and ensure that the UN includes and recognises all types of disabilities.

Opening speaker: Naiara Costa, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA

Naiara Costa is an International Relations analyst serving as Senior Sustainable Development Officer at the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs since 2018. Before that, she lead the International Secretariat of Together 2030, a civil society network tracking the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. She was the Advocacy Director of Beyond 2015, a global civil society campaign. Prior to that, she worked as an Advisor at the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom in New York as well as a development advisor at the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in Brazil. Naiara has served the UN as a National Programme Officer at UNAIDS in Brazil and the government of Brazil at the Presidency of the Republic and the Ministry of Finance. Naiara holds a master’s degree on International Relations (University of Brasilia, Brazil) and a MBA on Projects Getulio Vargas Foundation, Brazil).
Contributions from:
Dr Rachel Bray, Research Associate, Dept of Social Policy and Intervention, Oxford University

Rachel Bray is a Research Associate at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention and on the International Coordinating Team for the study entitled 'The Hidden Dimensions of Poverty: International Participatory Research', run in partnership with ATD Fourth World, whose members with direct experience of poverty co-lead the research. Rachel Bray is a social anthropologist whose work focuses on youth, family and inter-generational relationships with the aim of informing policy analysis or development. Her recent work in Europe and southern Africa focuses on the concepts and practices that underlie parenting support as a form of strengthening families and reducing adolescent risk. Ongoing collaborators include Lucie Cluver, Jenny Doubt, Franziska Meinck in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, plus colleagues in UNICEF Office of Research and the University of Cape Town.

With ATD Fourth World, Rachel also works with Robert Walker and Fran Bennett to support a six country study to identify the dimensions of poverty. This four year study engages younger and older people in defining and ranking the dimensions of poverty, as well as working age adults who are experiencing poverty, provide services to those who do, and who study or write about poverty, respectively.

Erika López Franco, Researcher, Participation, Inclusion and Social Change Research Cluster, Institute of Development Studies

Erika has worked in learning, research and evidence-based advocacy alongside activists, marginalised groups, development practitioner,s government bodies, and donors. Her work in Mexico focused on accompanying indigenous youth demands to higher education and working with a network of non-governmental and governmental actors to design and deliver the 2010 World Youth Conference. At IDS Erika has worked in numerous projects in different countries of Latin America, Africa and India. Specifically, she played a central role in the production of key research and advocacy outputs from the various phases of the Participate network’s work; the most recent part of the project Building Sustainable Inclusion: From Intersecting Inequalities to Accountable Relationships

From 2013-2017 she worked as the Learning Advisor of the Citizen Engagement Programme, playing a central role within the programme’s Innovation Lab, identifying and sharing lessons on ways to advance accountability in fragile, and closed spaces. Currently she collaborates in different participation, citizenship and social accountability research and learning projects across IDS and co-generating ideas for developing a programme on how to make the implementation of the SDGs meaningful and tangible at the local level, having the voices of those most left behind at the centre. Occasionally, she likes to tweet interesting things @EriLop

Oli Henman, Action for Sustainable Development

Oli is the Global Coordinator of Action for Sustainable Development, a new and rapidly growing decentralised network of over 2,500 civil society organisations and local activists in more than 160 countries, who have come together to promote a more just and sustainable world. He leads the global advocacy and engagement with multilateral bodies such as the UN and other international institutions. He has considerable experience of working with civil society participation and governance in South America, Europe and around the world.

In his previous role at CIVICUS he led key advocacy on the SDG negotiations, including leading roles in the ‘Sustainable Development 2015’ and Action/2015 projects, and he contributed regularly to policy developments on citizen participation in the UN and EU decision-making.

Before that, he spent seven years at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) in London, working on UK and EU-wide policy on civil society and public engagement, including co-drafting the Council of Europe’s ‘Code of Good Practice on Civil Participation’. He is half-Brazilian and started his career working on participatory budgeting in the favelas and rainforests of Brazil.
Peter Koblowsky (International Civil Society Centre)

Peter is an experienced project and partnership manager, and analyst of multi-stakeholder processes in the international NGO and development sector. Over the past six years at the International Civil Society Centre he devised and coordinated multiple strategic collaboration programmes for international NGOs. Over the last years, coordinating the Leave No One Behind partnership, he built additional experience in the strategic use of data for policy change. As a researcher for public think tanks he conducted various network and policy analyses focusing on climate politics and the SDGs.

Huong Phuong Thao (ActionAid Vietnam)

As the Representative of ActionAid International in country, Thao is in charge of leading an anti poverty programme of USD 4-6 million/year budget, 100+ partners at all level, 30+ staff (both national and expatriates) reaching more than 300,000 direct beneficiaries on ground. ActionAid works extensively in remote and difficult regions of Vietnam, addressing the issues of poverty and injustice, both in rural and urban areas.

Thao is responsible for management of the organization, not only in terms of establishing the system in place, managing the fund in accordance with the organization policies and donors’ requirements, leading and motivating the team to deliver, but also developing the partnership with different organizations and networks at different level, inside country and beyond, mainly with policy making, donors, corporates, media, academia and NGOs.

Thao is a loyal supporter and promoter of Human Rights based approach to development, women’s rights advancement and NGO accountability.

11am – 12:20pm: The second segment of the workshop will present case studies as well as practical tools to empower and enable participation of traditionally excluded groups.

Moderator: Sylvia Beales, Stakeholder Group on Ageing

Sylvia is Director of BealesGelber Consult, an independent inclusive social development consultancy, and the strategic partnerships advisor for the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP). She is member of, and strategic advisor to, Gray Panthers, and founder of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing, on whose behalf she spoke as one of the five civil society representatives selected to address the 2015 UN General Assembly. Sylvia is a distinguished Fellow of the International Council of Social Welfare and a volunteer refugee guide for the Helen Bamber Foundation for survivors of human cruelty.

As Head of Strategic Alliances of HelpAge Sylvia was the international policy lead for the 2008 revision of the African Union Social Policy Framework; co-manager of the global publication ‘Ageing in the 21st Century, a celebration and a challenge’ (with UNFPA); and led on the Global Age Watch Index 2013, 2014 and 2015. In the past three years Sylvia has worked on major projects with UNDESA, UNDP and UN Women. Globally and regionally Sylvia has supported civil society liaison and intergovernmental negotiation for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and is active within the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCEM) of the UNECE Sustainable Development process.

Since 2017 Sylvia has been collaborating closely with Global Campaign Against Poverty (GCAP) on ageing and inequality issues, and with Action for Sustainable Development to develop and roll out its toolkit and score card for the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
Contributions from:
Dr Elizabeth Lockwood, CBM and Maegan Shanks, Gallaudet University:

Maegan Shanks is a Program Assistant and an Adjunct Faculty member in the Master of Arts Program in International Development (IDMA) at Gallaudet University, a bilingual university that uses American Sign Language and English. Maegan is also an alum of the IDMA program and has been involved in International Development since 2008 when she participated in an exchange program with Mobility International USA (MIUSA) to Costa Rica. During her graduate studies, Maegan completed multiple internships including the Youth in International Development and Foreign Affairs program hosted by the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD). Maegan also worked as a researcher with the U.S. State Department under the Special Advisor of International Disability Rights, Judith Heumann. Building on the work she conducted as a graduate intern, Maegan secured a position with CBM International as the Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Learning Coordinator for CBM International. She supported the DID team in fostering and maintaining learning and knowledge management that increased capacity development in the DID Community of Practice. In addition to her current position at Gallaudet, Maegan also consults, trains and presents to various organizations about the importance of inclusion, fostering thinking processes and practices that promote inclusion of intersectional identities.

Dr. Elizabeth Lockwood is the CBM Representative at the United Nations and is based in New York. She focuses on developing advocacy strategies to raise awareness, build capacity, and lobby for the rights of persons with disabilities at the UN level in relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and disability inclusive development. Dr. Lockwood focuses on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, disability data and statistics, financing for development, and accessibility. Dr. Lockwood was raised by Dutch and American parents and has lived and worked in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and the Navajo Nation engaging in disability-focused grassroots activism and policymaking with emphasis on inclusive strategies and systematic change through advocacy, collaboration, and awareness. She holds a Ph.D. in Disability Studies; a Master of Public Policy with specialization in International Development and Disability; and is fluent in Spanish, American Sign Language and four additional sign languages.

Roxana Petrona Quispe Yujra and Sophie Boyer, ATD Fourth World Bolivia

Roxana Petrona Quispe Yujra was born in a rural indigenous community in the South of Bolivia. Raised in a family with scarce economic resources and in an area with little access to education, she emigrated to La Paz at age 18 to work as a domestic worker. Mrs. Quispe is married and has two children who attend school. Eight years ago Mrs. Quispe became an active member of her community participating in the Fourth World People’s University. About her participation she says: “People’s University helped me lose my fear, I learned to speak for myself, I met many people and made friends”. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda with the call to end poverty in all its forms everywhere presented a challenge to all people living in poverty, as they should be at the forefront to define “all its forms”. Accepting to be part of the Research Team of a participatory research, part of an international project carried out by ATD Fourth World in collaboration with Oxford University to define the dimensions of poverty 2 years ago, Ms. Quispe raised to this challenge. Through her participation in the HLPF, Mrs Quispe will break the cycle of subjugation and oppression created when people who are at the bottom of the social ladder are denied access to define the problems the international community wants to tackle in their behalf; when they are not given the opportunity to share their creativity and struggle to find solutions.
Previously trained and working as an occupational therapist in Canada, Sophie Boyer joined the ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps Member in 1997 in the United States, mainly working in New Orleans and New York alongside families living in deep poverty. She then continued working with families living in poverty by joining several ATD Fourth World local teams in France, Philippines, and Canada and leading various projects from welcoming homeless families in a family center in France, facilitating People’s University in Canada and leading a participatory research in Canada on equitable access to healthcare using the Merging of Knowledge approach. This technique aims at supporting people facing extreme poverty and social exclusion dialogue with policy makers, business leaders, social workers, and teachers. Sophie’s expertise in the Merging in Knowledge approach brought her to Bolivia in January 2017, as a co-coordinator of the research “The poor: Do we have to remain silent? Poverty analyzed through a participatory research in Bolivia” based on the same participatory methodology and bringing the voices and knowledge of activists living in deep poverty, practitioners and academics to better understand all forms of poverty.

Beckie Malay, Global Call to Action against Poverty - GCAP

Beckie is the Director for Advocacy and Development Cooperation, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (www.prrm.org) and Global Co-chair of GCAP(www.whiteband.org); she is also the Organising Partner for Asia of the NGO-Major Group and a Facilitation Group member of Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD).

She has 30 years extensive experience in managing policy, advocacy, campaigning, and building capacity of civil society in the Philippines and around the world. Her works is based on solid local and national level experience in managing field-level sustainable development programmes.

She has strong expertise in Sustainable Development and Human Rights and was involved in intensive campaigning on the various themes of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at the international and regional (Asia Pacific) levels both in the processes in the United Nations and outside the UN. In the last four years, she has conducted advocacy skills trainings with Asian activists to link human rights, development and democracy with the Sustainable Development Goals. She has also led campaigns to fight poverty, inequality and climate change with the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) and supervised Philippine Inequality research for the UN and Oxfam.

Annie Namala, Wada Na todo Abhiyaan

Annie is an Indian social activist and has been working for dalit rights. She is the director of Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI) and partners with community led organisations to promote leadership and equitable opportunities for youth from marginalised communities. She is the Co-Chair of Wada Na todo Abhiyaan (WNTA) in India, a national campaign of 3500 CSOs to hold the government accountable for its promise to end Poverty, Social Exclusion & Discrimination. She actively engages with the government and the UN agencies in addressing untouchability and social exclusion and evolving equity and inclusion practices.
12:30pm – 1pm: For the third and final segment, we propose an interactive session with the audience to get a deeper understanding of the tools/approaches presented during the workshop and discuss potential for replication.

Moderators: KAM Morshed, Director of Advocacy for Social Change at BRAC, Erika Lopez Franco, and Dr. Elizabeth Lockwood.

KAM Morshed leads BRAC’s advocacy, partnership, and technology teams. He facilitates BRAC’s policy engagements and stimulates technology adaptation to help reimagine BRAC’s internal processes and programme interventions. He is also responsible for fostering partnership between BRAC and the government to help expand BRAC’s impact. Before joining BRAC in October 2015, Mr Morshed led Bangladesh’s Policy, Innovation and Communication teams at UNDP for over 10 years. In that role, he managed UNDP-government partnerships and supervised various programme interventions in the areas of ICT4D, MDGs, aid effectiveness, trade, and south-south cooperation.