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# World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education WCECCE 2022

## Composition of the Programme Committee

### Chair

**Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO**



Ms Stefania Giannini was appointed UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education in May 2018, becoming the top UN official in the field. As Senator of the Republic of Italy (2013 – 2018) and Minister of Education, Universities and Research (2014 – 2016), she developed and implemented a structural reform of the Italian education system, centred on social inclusion and cultural awareness.



### Co-Chair

**Mrs Agrippina Shin, Minister of Preschool Education, Republic of Uzbekistan**



Mrs Agrippina Shin graduated from Tashkent Electrotechnical Institute of Communications (*now known as Tashkent University of Information Technologies named after Muhammad al-Khorezmi*). She holds a PhD degree in pedagogical sciences. Ms. Shin is an engineer. She has an extensive experience in the legislative field of the Republic. For 10 years Ms. Shin had been a deputy of Tashkent City Kengash of People's Deputies, and a member of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



### Representatives of Member States

#### Regional group I:

**Mr Christian Paradis, Director of Early Learning and Child Care at Employment and Social Development, Canada**



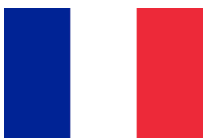
As part of his work, Christian is responsible for intergovernmental relations both domestically and internationally as well as the implementation of a Canada-wide early learning and child care system. Internationally, Christian is an active participant of the OECD's Early Childhood Education and Care Network and has been Chair of the Network from 2019 to 2021. Christian holds a Master's Degree in Economics from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.



**Ms Sylviane Giampino, Early childhood psychologist, Psychoanalyst and President of the Council for Children and Adolescents, France**



Sylviane Giampino is, since 2016, vice-president of the High Council for Family, Childhood and Age (HCFEA), of which she chairs the Council for Childhood and Adolescence. This institution is part of the Prime Minister's prospective services. She is also a member of the National Consultative Ethics Committee for Life Sciences and Health (CCNE), appointed by decree on April 22, 2022.



### Regional group II:



#### **Ms Liene Voronenko, Head of the National Centre for Education, Republic of Latvia**



Liene Voronenko has been managing the National Centre for Education of Republic of Latvia since January 2022, having previously led the implementation of two significant education reform projects in Latvian general education for seven years within National Centre for Education - the implementation of individualized approach development measures in 330 Latvian educational institutions and national measures for early detection and development of high achievement potential.

#### **Ms Evgeniya Kostadinova, Director of Preschool and School Education Contents Directorate, Bulgaria**



Main responsibilities in the field of development and implementation of State educational Requirements, national syllabi and curricula for pre-primary, primary and secondary education as well as for Organization and analyses of national assessments and matura exams.

### Regional group III:

#### **Ms. María Pía Sosa Walder, Presidential Management Unit of the UGPR**



Ms. María Pía Sosa Walder holds a master's in education and International Development at the Institute of Education of the University College of London (UCL). Sociologist and Political Science graduate. Advisor on Education and Early Childhood at the Management Unit of the Presidency of the Republic (UGPR).

### Regional group IV:

#### **Dr Mugyeong Moon, Director of Office of International Research and Data Analysis, Korea Institute of Child Care and Education (KICCE), Republic of Korea**



Dr Mugyeong Moon is Director of Office of International Research and Data Analysis, Korea Institute of Child Care and Education (KICCE) in the Republic of Korea (ROK). Before working at KICCE, Dr. Moon was Head of the Early Childhood Education Division, Graduate School of Education, Ajou University in ROK



**Dr. Muhammad Hasbi, Director of Early Childhood Education, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Indonesia**



Experience for over 29 years in the field of Early Childhood Education and Community Education. Current role includes promoting Merdeka Curriculum for the education of pre-primary age children, facilitating inclusive early childhood education, and supporting stunting prevention-mitigation through holistic-integrative early childhood development program.

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**Regional group V (a):**



**Mrs. Caroline Arekion, Director of the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority, ECCEA, Mauritius**



Mrs. Caroline Arekion holds a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Development (0 - 9 years) with UNISA, University of South Africa, followed by a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Studies from Walden University in the USA, she started her career in education as a primary school teacher in 2007, and subsequently joined the Mauritius Institute of Education, MIE, as a trainer of pre-primary teachers.

**Mr Tenguella Ba, Director of Preschool Education, Senegal**



mathematics to strengthen the cognitive dimension of early learning.

Mr Tenguella Ba is an Inspector of primary and Preschool Education. He has 27 years of experience in the field of education. He holds a master's degree and has a solid knowledge of education sciences. He is the focal point of the RAP project (Reinforcement of Support for Child Protection) of the Ministry of Education, he has also contributed, in his capacity as inspector, to the handling of child protection and inclusion issues. He is leading the ongoing process of revision of the pre-school curriculum which integrates reading and emergent mathematics to strengthen the cognitive dimension of early learning.

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**Regional group V (b):**



**Dr Kefah Al-Haddad, Director of Regional Center for Early Childhood Development, Syria**

Dr Kefah Al-Haddad got an honorary doctorate from Edmore University due to several research and studies that she conducted and published. She also, obtained a professional master's degree from the American applied institute. She has made many personal efforts to develop herself so that she can always be in the service of childhood and the protection of children. She has been and still participate and present in all conferences related to childhood.

**Dr Gibreel Izzi Hameed Alburaihi, Deputy Director of the Department of Academic Development and Quality Assurance at Taiz University, Yemen**



Jabreel Ezzi Hamid Alburiahi is an associate professor of Child Psychology in Taiz University. At the moment, he works as the deputy for the directorate of academic development and quality assurance besides being the chairman of the kindergarten department in the faculty of education.

## UN Agencies

**Mr Oliver Liang, Unit Head, Public and Private Services, Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)**



He serves as the senior sectoral specialist for education, culture, media and sports. Together with UNESCO, he coordinates the secretariat of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Status of Teaching Personnel and promotes teacher standards, including the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Teachers and the ILO policy guidelines on the promotion of decent work for early childhood education personnel. Oliver has also worked in the fields of development cooperation and international labour standards.

### Alternate:

**Ms Nikolina Postic, Technical Officer in the Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)**



Her work primarily focuses on working conditions and labour rights in the teaching profession, with emphasis on social dialogue and the future of work in the education sector. She is currently managing a project on digitalization, the future of work and the teaching profession in East Africa. Nikolina co-chairs the thematic group on ECE teachers and educators of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030.

**Bernadette Daelmans, Unit Head for Child Health and Development, Unit Head for Adolescent and Young Adult Health, World Health Organization (WHO)**



Bernadette Daelmans is leading the Child Health and Development unit in the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing in the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. Since she joined WHO, she has been engaged with a range of issues related to maternal, newborn and child health including infant and young child feeding, integrated management of childhood illness, newborn health and early childhood development. She managed the secretariat of the Steering Team

that prepared the Lancet series *Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale* (2016). Most recently, she led the development of the *Nurturing Care Framework*, jointly issued by WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank with support from PMNCH and the ECD Action Network. She was also a member of the Lancet Global Health Commission on High Quality Health Systems in the SDG Era that published its report in September 2018.

**Erinna Dia, Associate Director, Early Childhood Development, UNICEF Headquarters**



Erinna Dia is providing intellectual and strategic vision, advisory support and guidance to ensure that the agenda for young children's development is actively pursued and institutionalized in the organization's advocacy, policy, programming and humanitarian work. Prior to that, Dr. Dia worked as Chief of Education in West and Central Africa, the Middle East and South Asia where, with the teams under her leadership, she has achieved critical results for children in complex and nonpermissive political and operational environments. She has also held technical positions in the human development and economics

departments of the African Development Bank where she worked with Regional Member Countries on the elaboration and implementation of education and protection projects to foster social transformation and generate growth through improved access to education, skills, technology and employment. She has co-authored several papers and journal articles on education challenges and opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Alternate 1:**

**Ms Chemba Raghavan, Senior Advisor, ECD, UNICEF headquarters**



Dr. Chemba Raghavan currently works as the Senior Advisor/Deputy to the Chief with the Early Childhood Development (ECD) team in UNICEF Headquarters in New York. Prior to joining UNICEF HQ, Chemba worked in the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) as the Regional Focal Point of the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and as ECD/Education Specialist. Chemba has also served as a Technical Expert for UNESCO in Bangkok, and Research Advisor in the Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC). She has several years of experience

as Senior Researcher/Assistant Professor in academia in the U.S. Her areas of expertise include child development, parenting, cross-cultural lifespan human development and family studies, gender socialization and parenting, research methods and statistics. She has a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family studies from the Pennsylvania State University.

**Alternate 2:**

**Divya Lata, Education Specialist, lead of the global Early Childhood Education program, UNICEF**



Prior to this, working in senior technical and strategic advisory roles in leading international organizations, Divya has advanced child-focused policies and programs in diverse contexts in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Eastern and Southern Europe. Deeply committed to disability rights, she has a deep interest in advancing Early Childhood Intervention systems for supporting children at risk of disabling conditions. Divya has served on the Boards of several organizations and networks focusing on Education and Early Childhood, including as Chair of the Regional Funding Committee

of the Civil Society Education Fund for Asia; the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), Singapore and the Child to Child Trust, London.

## Multilateral agencies and partnerships

**Mr Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, OECD**



Andreas Schleicher initiated and oversaw the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and other international instruments that have created a global platform for policymakers, researchers and educators across nations and cultures to innovate and transform educational policies and practices. He has worked for over 20 years with ministers and education leaders to improve education.



**Alternate:**

**Yuri Belfali Head of Division, Early Childhood and Schools, OECD**



Ms. Belfali supports the Directorate for Education and Skills in providing strategic direction to the work on knowledge generation and its policy implication concerning skills development in early childhood education, care and school systems. She oversees large scale surveys including the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Teaching and Learning International Survey programme (TALIS) and thematic analyses including the development of learning framework 'the future of education and skills: OECD education 2030'. Before joining the OECD, she worked for UNICEF as Chief of the Education Section in Morocco and the World Bank in the field of human development between 2002 and 2012. She had a leadership role in advising governments for education reforms and gender mainstreaming. Ms. Belfali, a Japanese national, holds a Master's degree in International Educational Administration and Policy Analysis from Stanford University.

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**Mr Hiroshi Saeki, Senior Economist of the Education Global Practice, the World Bank.**



Since 2004, he has led analytical and operational work in the education sector in South Asia and Africa regions of the World Bank. He is currently in charge of, among other projects, Early Childhood Development projects in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as Task Team Leader. In his previous work in Africa, Hiroshi has led the US\$1.5 billion education portfolio for three and a half years based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was one of the largest education portfolios in Africa region, covering from pre-primary to higher education, including skills development. He authors a number of papers in the education field, including science and technology, skills development, public expenditure reviews in education sector, labor market analysis, and employability of graduates from TVET institutions and universities in various countries. Hiroshi holds a master's degree in international development from Duke University, North Carolina, U.S.A.

**Alternate 1:**

**Dessislava Kuznetsova, Education Specialist in the Education Global Practice, the World Bank**



Dessislava Kuznetsova is an Education Specialist in the Education Global Practice of the World Bank where she works on analytical and operational activities in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region. She has around 18 years of experience working in human development. Currently, Dessislava is the Task Team Leader of the World Bank support to education sector development in Bulgaria. Dessislava is also focal point for early childhood development (ECD) and teacher policies for ECA. She was involved in ECD system level reviews and operations for Georgia, Tajikistan and Bulgaria. Dessislava holds master's degrees in political science and in BA from Sofia University, Bulgaria.

## Alternate 2:

**Sherri Le Mottee, international ECD consultant, the World Bank in Uzbekistan**



She leads the implementation of MELQO in North Macedonia and is international advisor to the project implementation unit for Tajikistan's ECD Project to Build Human Capital. With a background in education and development she has a wide range of professional experience including policy development, project design, evaluation research, and program implementation. She has worked with governments, IFIs, development agencies and NGOs. Recent achievements include the development of an on-line platform for teachers and parents in

Uzbekistan to support play-based learning, support to the IFC team developing Fiji's first Childcare Policy, the development of the IFC Global Guide for Employer Supported Childcare and subsequent guide on COVID-19 and Childcare. In addition, she has worked with the African Early Childhood Network (AfECN) on several assignments including a series of blogs during COVID-19 and contributed to UNICEF's 2019 global report on pre-primary education, *A World Ready to Learn: Prioritizing quality in early childhood education*. Sherri holds a BPrimEd Ed and BEd from the University of the Witwatersrand and an MPhil in Inclusive Innovation from the University of Cape Town, GSB.

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**Ms Christin Macconnel, Education Specialist, Global Partnership for Education (GPE)**



Christin McConnell joined the Education, Policy and Learning team of the GPE Secretariat in 2017, where she has been leading GPE's thematic area related to early childhood care and education. Christin has been supporting education programs and policies in developing countries for 10 years. Prior to joining GPE, Christin most recently worked as a contractor for USAID, aiding global initiatives in early grade reading programming, monitoring, and evaluation. She has over six years of experience with the World Bank, closely supporting education operations and analytical work spanning from early

childhood to secondary education in Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Ghana, and Lebanon. Christin holds a master's degree in development economics and International Education Policy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a bachelor's degree from Harvard University.



## Civil Society and Networks

**Elizabeth Lule, Executive Director, ECDAN**



Elizabeth Lule is Executive Director of the Early Child Development Action Network (ECDAN). Before joining ECDAN, she served in senior leadership and technical positions at the World Bank for 18 years. She also worked at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as Director, at Pathfinder International as their Africa Regional Vice President, and as Technical Advisor with USAID in Nigeria. Elizabeth has been instrumental in establishing and supporting global partnerships, networks and coalitions to improve maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, early childhood development, and HIV programs.

She serves on several Boards of Directors, including Save the Children International and has served as a member of several global think tanks, including several UN Inter-Agency Task Teams.



**Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, the World President of World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP)**



Mercedes Mayol Lassalle is the World President of OMEP since 2020 and elected member of the Coordination Group of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on EDUCATION 2030 -CCNGO/ED 2030, to 2024. Graduated in Educational Sciences, University of Buenos Aires. Currently, she is Professor on Public Policies for Early Childhood in the master's in early childhood education at the University of Buenos Aires. She has been Professor of the Regional Training Program in Educational Policies, of IIEP-UNESCO for Latin America; Professor in Teacher Training on Early Childhood Education, in the National University of

Lomas de Zamora and Santiago del Intermember of the Regional History Team of the National University of La Pampa and the Research Program, Higher Normal School N° 9, Buenos Aires.

**Alternate:**

**Adrijana Višnjić Jevtić, Regional Vice President for Europe, World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP)**



Adrijana Višnjić Jevtić is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb. She teaches several courses at the undergraduate and graduate level of early and preschool education. She is a mentor and co-mentor of more than 40 final and graduate theses. Her areas of scientific interest are early childhood pedagogy, professional development of teachers and cooperation between families and educational institutions. She is the author of several scientific and professional papers and a participant in several scientific and scientific conferences. She is a member of different the research teams and editorial boards.

**Dr. Refat Sabbah, President of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE)**



Dr. Refat Sabbah also serves as president of the Arab house of Adult Education and Development and is the founder and General Director of the Teacher Creativity Center, a body which promotes transformative and human rights-based Education at national and international levels in cooperation with a number of leading international platforms and initiatives. He has extensive experience in the field of education as a social actor, empowering and promoting the critical role of teachers. Mr Sabbah is an active board member and representative of civil society on a number

of leading international platforms. Dr. Sabbah is a published author and holds a PhD in Education from Almaref University, Yemen, for his important work in support of education in Yemen as well as a Masters in Women Development and Law from Birzeit University, Palestine, and master's on Educational Management from Al Quds open University.



**Alternate:**

**Mr Grant Kasowanjete, Global Coordinator, Global Campaign for Education (GCE)**



Grant Kasowanjete is the current Global Coordinator for the Global Campaign for Education. He has worked in various sectors such as agriculture, health, education, and democracy.

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**Mr Dean Brooks, Director of the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)**



Dean Brooks is the Director of the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), an open, global network of more than 15,000 members and includes representatives from UN agencies, NGOs, donors, governments, universities, schools, and affected populations working together to ensure all persons the right to quality education in emergencies and post-crisis recovery. Dean has over two decades of international education experience working in complex emergencies, conflict, disaster and development contexts. Dean has been an active member of INEE since 2001.

**Alternate:**

**Ms Maria Benavides Early Childhood Development Coordinator for the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)**



Maria Benavides supports and strengthens INEE's early childhood development and education initiatives and assists the activities of the INEE Early Childhood Development Task Team. Maria is a policy professional with seven years of international experience in social development, specifically in early childhood development and education. Maria holds an M.A. in International Development and Policy with a concentration in Global Conflicts from Harris School of Public Policy, and a B.A. in Political Science from the Universidad del Rosario of Colombia. Maria is based in Bogota, Colombia.

## Foundations

**Ms Ana María Nieto, Early Childhood Senior Programme Specialist, LEGO Foundation.**



Between 2016 and 2018 she held the position of Early Childhood Director at the Ministry of National Education in Colombia. Previously she worked as an Editor in the Harvard Educational Review and in research groups focused on Harvard, Yale, NYU and Los Andes universities. Her research is focused on early childhood public policies, teacher training, violence prevention and family interventions. Ana María is a Psychologist and Anthropologist from Los Andes university and holds Master and Doctor of Education degrees from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**Alternate:**

**Mr Aaron Lee Morris, Program Officer, LEGO Foundation**



Mr Aaron Lee Morris is an Early Childhood Programme Specialist at the LEGO Foundation, overseeing a range of global partnerships focused on utilizing play to support the learning and development of children birth-to-six at home, in early childhood care and education settings, and within communities around the world. Prior to that, he was the Director of Family and Community Learning at PBS KIDS where he managed collaborative efforts to create playful learning experiences for children, families, and educators across the US. An alumnus of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Aaron holds an Ed.M. in Technology, Innovation, and Education.

**Mr Xavier Ouvrard, Chief Executive Officer, Babilou Family**



Xavier Ouvrard Graduated from Sciences-po Paris and HEC Paris, after two experiences within L'OREAL and SOCIETE GENERAL banking group, he did create a baby product activity in Latin America: first in Argentina, then in Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela & Puerto Rico. Italian & French Baby products importation and industrial manufacturing line creation in Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Buenos Aires (Argentina). He is formal Childcare Domain CEO. He is concurrently President of APM, the main French speaking countries Organization for CEO training & personal development. This Organization includes 6500 French speaking CEOs in 20 countries. International experts provide their talents to enhance those CEOs innovative & creative abilities.

**Alternate:**

**Ms Sridevi Raghavan, Senior Vice President - Education, Quality and Sustainability, Babilou Family**



Sridevi Raghavan is an MBA from Harvard Business School, and a postgraduate in Economics from University of Madras, India. She began her career at Ogilvy and Mather Advertising in 2000. In 2003, keen to make a positive contribution to an important cause, she joined the NGO Child Rights and You - to ensure a better quality of life for India's children. Upon her MBA from Harvard, Sridevi Raghavan founded Amelio Early Education, the first daycare network in the state of Tamil Nadu in India to help women find a better work-life balance.

**UNESCO institute and Center**

**Ms Shirley Choppy, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD)**



Shirley Choppy directs and leads a small team at the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD), as the Chief Executive Officer since 2012. She has a passion for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in the field of education, focusing on early stimulation and learning, national policy planning and quality assurance, research and multi-sectoral initiatives in ECCE (0-7+ years). Her leadership and exemplary contribution in early childhood development and numerous achievements nationally have led to Seychelles IECD being recognized as a Best Practice Hub for ECCE by the International Bureau of Education – UNESCO in 2017, and the recent designation by UNESCO as a Category 2 Centre for ECCE under its auspices.

**Mr Yao Ydo, Director of UNESCO International Bureau of Education (UNESCO-IBE)**



Mr Ydo holds a PhD in Linguistics and Language Didactics from the University of Grenoble (France) and a post graduate Diploma in Diplomacy and Strategy from the Centre d'Études Diplomatiques et Stratégiques (CEDES), Paris. With over 25 years of experience with UNESCO, Mr. Ydo has proven expertise and extensive experience in the field of education. He began his career at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, before serving in several countries (Mali, Cameroon, DR Congo, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Nigeria) as an Education Program Specialist, UNESCO Representative, and UNESCO Regional Director for West Africa.