

High-level Panel on "Realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities"

Bios of Panellists

Ms. Margaret Mbogoni, Senior Statistician, UNDESA/UNSD



Ms. Mbogoni is a senior Statistician at the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in New York where she is the Manager for the Disability Statistics Programme. In this capacity, she oversees the Division's work with regard to development of international methodological guidelines, providing technical assistance to countries to strengthen national statistical capacity, and compilation and dissemination of statistics on disability.

Other notable achievements in the area of disability include contribution to the development of the WHO International Classification of Functioning and Disability (ICF); and organizing the UNSD International Seminar on Disability Measurement that recommended the formation of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

Mr. Mark Waltham, Senior Education Adviser, UNICEF



Mark Waltham has worked as a Senior Education Adviser in UNICEF's New York HQ since 2012. As the lead adviser on equity and inclusion, Mark is responsible for coordinating UNICEF's global Out of School Children Initiative and for inclusive education for children with disabilities. Before joining UNICEF, Mark spent 13 years as a senior education adviser in the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), including postings in Nepal, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, and the Asia-Pacific region on secondment to AusAID. Previously, Mark worked at Cambridge University in the UK, as a field worker for an international NGO in Nepal, and as a teacher in both the UK and Ghana. Mark holds a PhD and an MEd in education research. He is married with two children.

Ms. Leyla Sharafi, Programme Analyst for Human Rights and Gender, UNFPA



Ms. Leyla Sharafi is a Technical Specialist focusing on gender, youth and disability issues within the Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch of UNFPA's Technical Division in New York. Ms. Sharafi's role at UNFPA is to coordinate the organization's gender mainstreaming efforts and manage global gender and human rights programmes in particular related to persons with disabilities. Prior to joining UNFPA, Ms. Sharafi worked for UNIFEM, as well as in the media sector as a journalist and editor for a number of years. Ms. Sharafi holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication from Florida Atlantic University as well as a Master of Arts degree in International Affairs from the New School for Social Research.



Ms. Sarah Rattray,

Global Policy Specialist for Human Rights, UNDP

Sarah Rattray is the lead advisor for UNDP on disability inclusive development and human rights. Sarah has worked for 17 years in the UN system, in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Kosovo and subsequently in HQ on a variety of issues including governance, human rights and protection, support to rule of law and access to justice, and disability inclusive development.

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Ms. Sophie Mitra, Associate Professor of Economics, Fordham University



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