



### **Roundtable 3: Promoting Inclusive environments for the full implementation of the CRPD (10:00am-12:00pm, December 3, 2020)**

#### **Short Bios of Speakers**



**Co-chairs: Finland and Civil Society**

#### **Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland Pekka Haavisto**



Pekka Haavisto was born in Helsinki on 23 March 1958. He was a Member of Parliament in 1983–1995 and was returned to Parliament in 2007. In 1995–1999, he served as Minister of Development and the Environment and in 2013–2014 as Minister for International Development. In 1993–1995 and in 2018–2019, he was Party Leader of the Greens in Finland. He has also served several years as a member of the Helsinki City Council. He stood as a candidate in the presidential election in Finland in 2012 and in 2018.

He has gained wide experience of various areas of foreign policy, for example, while chairing the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Task Forces on environmental impacts of war in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, Liberia, occupied Palestinian territory and Sudan. He has also worked as the EU Special Representative for Sudan and Darfur, Special Advisor for the UN (ASG) in the Darfur peace process, and Special Representative to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in African crises.

In addition, he has served in several positions of trust, including President of the Board of the European Institute of Peace (EIP) in 2016–2019, Chair of the Board of the Finnish Federation of Settlement Houses in 2014–2019, and Chair of WWF Finland’s Board of Trustees.

Haavisto has worked as Editor-in-Chief of several publications, including Vihreä Lanka magazine. Vihreä Lanka –lehteä. Additionally, he has authored many books, the most recent one,

*Eurooppa raiteilla* (Europe on rails), in 2018. Pekka Haavisto lives in a registered partnership. His main interests are books, cycling, wooden boats and cultural backyards.

**Ambassador, Mr. Jukka Salovaara**

Ambassador Jukka Salovaara is the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations. He has held the position since June 2019. Ambassador Salovaara has worked for the Finnish Foreign Ministry for nearly 25 years and mostly served in different positions in Helsinki, the most recent being Political Director for the Ministry. Ambassador Salovaara was born in Helsinki, Finland in 1968. He graduated from the University of Helsinki in 1992 with a Master's in Political Science.

**Mr. Juan Ángel De Gouveia**

Born in Caracas, Venezuela. He is Deaf and Defender of Human Rights with an emphasis on the issue of people with disabilities. UNICEF World Representative for Children with Disabilities (2001 -2003). President of the WFD, Youth Section (2007 -2011). Vice President in Charge of CONAPDIS (2013). Winner of the "Teapot Diplomat Award" from the United States Department of State (2015). Student of the Month for September by the International Leadership Program for Visitors "Global Social Impact" of the United States Department of State (2016).

Currently: Vice President of RIADIS (since 2017). Accredited as an expert member by civil society by CEDDIS- OAS (since 2018). Member of the Board of Directors at IDA and at WFD too. President of CONSORVEN and Director of FUNVAPE (Venezuela).

**Panellists:**



**Mr. Pawel Wdówik, Poland**

Mr. Wdówik is the Governmental Commissioner for People with Disabilities and Secretary of State in the Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Poland since January of 2020.

Since 1997, he has been the Head of the Office for Disabled People at the University of Warsaw. He is also the creator of a support system for people with disabilities at the University of Warsaw, which provides disabled students such improvements as an adaptation of study materials, buildings' accessibility, transportation, services of translation into Polish sign language, assistants' help or psychological support.

He has been a member of the Polish Ombudsman's Committee of Experts on People with Disabilities since 2010.



**Ms. Rocío de Moreno, Ecuador**

Ms. Moreno is First Lady of Ecuador and President of the Technical Secretariat of the “Toda Una Vida” Plan that coordinates the social protection programs of Ecuador, including for persons with disabilities. The Plan recognizes that development takes place throughout the life course of the human being; with the living conditions in the different stages of life being determined to previous stages; and that the environments in which a person lives affect his or her wellbeing. The Plan seeks to transform the living conditions of the population through sustained work in the reduction of risk factors, the strengthening of capacities and the generation of opportunities through integral interventions in 7 key areas: care of early childhood (Mission Tenderness), strengthening development conditions for young people (Young Action Mission), the elderly (Mission My Best Years), the elimination of barriers faced by specific population groups (Mission Women, Mission House for All, Mission for Persons with Disabilities and Mission Less Poverty more Development). All these require inclusive and enabling environments for the protection and promotion of Human Rights and Sustainable development for all, leaving no one behind.

Ms. María José Rivas, Undersecretary of Territorial Management of the Technical Secretariat of "Toda Una Vida" Plan, will be present for Roundtable Q&A to answer any questions directed toward the Office of the First Lady.



**Mr. Santiago Velasquez, Australia**

Mr. Velasquez is a Civil Society advocate. He has been inspired by his vision impairment and electrical engineering expertise to invent solutions to make this world more inclusive. He founded two companies, EyeSyght and Hailo, to solve accessibility issues in business, education, employment, and navigation. National and international banks, transport, and tech companies are currently at the negotiating table. Mr. Velasquez has won excellence awards, presented TED talks, keynote addresses, and shared his passion for innovative inventions during COSP12 at the United Nations. He is a 23-year-old bilingual Australian resident who immigrated from Colombia and is the first blind electrical engineering student in the Southern hemisphere.



**Ms. Frances West, United States of America**

Frances West is an internationally recognized thought leader, speaker, strategy advisor, and women-in-technology executive known for her work in innovation, technology, and business transformation. Her human-first approach to leadership on digital inclusion came from her journey as a first-generation, non-English speaking immigrant and her career as a technology executive including IBM's first Chief Accessibility Officer. She is the author of "Authentic Inclusion™ Drives Disruptive Innovation" a blueprint to scale and sustain inclusion and founder of Frances West Co, a global strategy advisory company focused on operationalizing inclusion as a business and technology imperative.



**Dr. Bhargavi Davar, India**

Bhargavi Davar, Ph. D. is a person with a psycho-social disability. She has worked extensively in the field of disability inclusion, gender research, peer support practice and advocacy for 2 decades. She is well published and her recent book from OUP is Gendering mental health: Knowledges, identities, institutions, a critique of the coercive narratives in mental health. She founded Bapu Trust for Research on Mind & Discourse, in 1999, and "Transforming Communities for Inclusion, Asia Pacific" (TCI) in 2014. TCI works as a DPO in the Asia Pacific region, facilitating and empowering DPOs and engaging various stakeholder groups, on the human rights of people with psycho-social disabilities.



**Mr. Mark Mapemba, Malawi**

Mr. Mapemba is a self-advocate with an intellectual disability. He is a youth representative for Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM); Board Member and Chairman of PODCAM Youth Network; Board Member and self-advocate representative for Inclusion Africa; Council Member and officer of Inclusion International; and city councilor in Blantyre, Malawi.

Mark has been to the United Nations – COSP previously, as well as Rome, Italy as a speaker for Inclusion International on disability Issues. He has been in Madrid, Spain as a Speaker at an Inclusion International conference. He was shortlisted to be among the Young Person with disability to speak at the \*World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey. He has been to Nepal, UAE, Dubai, England and many African countries training disability self-advocates human rights and the UN CRPD.