

An evening reception on the margins of the SDG Summit hosted by **ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive technology**, with support from USAID, UNICEF and the International Disability Alliance (IDA).

Biographies of the moderator, speakers and panellists

Cara Yar Khan

Cara Yar Khan is presently serving as a White House political appointee as the Senior Advisor to Special Advisor on International Disability Rights.

Starting her international career in 2001 with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Ecuador followed by a senior executive role in corporate communications for Dell Panama, in 2007 Cara Yar Khan joined the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Angola in 2007 to cultivate multi-million corporate partnerships in benefit of the world's most vulnerable children.

This led to a year with UNICEF China to support the Sichuan Earthquake Emergency Response, followed by UNICEF assignments in Madagascar, Mozambique, Thailand and finally Haiti where she served as the Resource Mobilization Specialist and Disability Focal Point after the devastating 2010 Earthquake. Her work as a Disability Focal Point with the Haitian Secretary of State was so groundbreaking that the Women's Refugee Commission featured Cara as a woman leader and role model for disability inclusion in humanitarian action, "Working to Improve Our Own Futures". In 2013 UNICEF moved Cara moved to the USA where she has lived since.



In December 2019 Cara was the closing guest speaker at TED Women presenting, *The beautiful balance between courage and fear* which has been viewed more than 2.6 million times and has been translated into 25 languages.

Porsche North America and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, awarded Cara the 2015 Driving Force Award which recognizes women who exemplify the spirit of activism and community engagement at the local and/ or global level. Cara was named Canada's Champion of Diversity, Inclusion and Empowerment of Women & Girls for embodying the Government of Canada's commitment to female empowerment and reducing barriers and increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to ensure their full participation in society. In 2018, Cara was recognized by Atlanta Magazine, as a 2018 Women Making a Mark Honoree and by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as an Outstanding Voice in Diversity & Inclusion. In 2020, Diversability named Cara to its global D-30 Impact List, which honors the unique accomplishments of the most impactful disability leaders in the world.

Cara has a masters degree in International Public Policy from John Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Italy and is accomplished in languages, fluent in Spanish, with working knowledge of French and Portuguese and basic Mandarin Chinese.

Jon Lomøy

Jon Lomøy joined the ATscale Board to become its inaugural Chair in August 2020. He serves in a personal, independent capacity.

During his distinguished career Jon Lomøy held senior positions both within the government of his home country Norway and in multilateral organisations. From 2015 until 2019, he was the Director General of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). Jon Lomøy previously headed the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate from 2010 to 2015. He served in senior positions at Norad, was Deputy Director General of the Department for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East in Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and twice served as Ambassador of Norway, to Zambia from 1996 to 2000 and to Tanzania from 2007 to 2010.



Pascal Bijleveld

Pascal brings to this partnership 20 years of leadership experience in global public health at country, regional and global levels. He has straddled the private and public sectors, embracing market-shaping strategies linked to deep systems transformations.

Most recently, Pascal was the Director of Country Support at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. He led Gavi's largest team, responsible for country investments to drive greater coverage and equity in access to vaccines. In 2020/2021, Pascal also directed the Covid-19 vaccine delivery efforts across all Gavi-eligible countries under the auspices of the Covax Facility.

From 2013 to 2017, he led the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Strategy and Coordination Team, a multi-agency team hosted by UNICEF in New York. This team successfully managed a US\$250 million trust fund used to support countries accelerate progress in reducing maternal and child mortality by making life-saving commodities more accessible through innovative market-shaping approaches. In this role, Pascal also co-led with the World Bank, the business development team that established the Global Financing Facility.



Before moving to New York, Pascal spent several years in Africa with the Clinton Health Access Initiative as Country Director in Rwanda; Regional Director for West & Central Africa based out of Ghana; and as Executive Vice-President for health systems strengthening work, focusing in particular on health financing, based out of Kenya.

From 2003 to 2007, he worked for the World Health Organization in Geneva as advisor to the Assistant Director General for General Management and acting Director General. As a management consultant with McKinsey & Co., from 2000 to 2003, Pascal spent a year helping launch the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Pascal holds a master's degree in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Michele Sumilas

Michele Sumilas is currently the Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL). PPL shapes USAID's development policy and programming guidance to ensure the Agency's work is grounded in evidence and reflects the most advanced thinking in international development.



Most recently she served as Executive Director of Bread for the World, an anti-hunger Christian advocacy organization. Her government experience includes serving as USAID Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff during the Obama administration, and on the House Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations. Prior to serving in government, Sumilas worked at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Health Council.

Sumilas attended Mount Holyoke College and received her Master's Degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Ambassador Webson

H. E. Dr Walton Aubrey Webson, is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations 2014 to the present.

Dr Webson has worked for several international organizations including Sight Savers International (UK), Helen Keller International (New York), the Caribbean Council for the blind (Antigua Barbuda), and he was the CEO of Perkins International from 2011 to 2014.



He has written on NGO development, the structure and operation of Nonprofit Boards and the management of organizations and has recently published on Eye health and the SDGS in the lead public health journal.

He has written and spoken widely at international meetings and conferences on Rehabilitation and education of persons with disability. He championed the international sign language and world Braille days in 2015 and 2017 respectfully. Webson founded the “Friends of Vision” at the United Nation and pioneered the first resolution on vision at the United Nation in 2021.

He served as the president of the board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS (2020) and as the Vice President in 2019 taking over leadership from September 2019. He also served as the president of the board of UNICEF (2017).

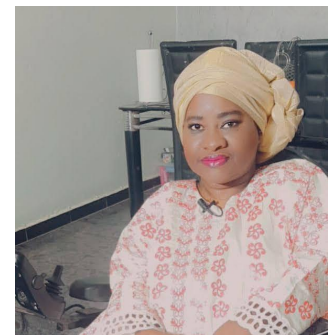
Ruth Warick

Dr. Ruth Warick is First Vice-President of the International Disability Alliance. She was formerly a Senior Accessibility Advisor at the University of British Columbia where she worked for over 25 years. Currently, she is Director of Programs and Services for Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility in British Columbia, Canada. She was born with a hearing loss and was a founder of the national hard of hearing organization in Canada and was president of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People for over a decade.



Aïssatou Cissé

Aïssatou is the Special Advisor to the President of Senegal, in charge of the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Vulnerable Persons. She is also a writer and the President and CEO of the Inclusive Solidarity Development Center (CDSI). Aïssatou assists with a Senegalese organization called ASEDEME, founded in 1989 to assist children with learning difficulties to receive an education.



Nayem Molla

Nayem Molla is a youth disability rights activist based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He currently works with the International Disability Alliance as an Assistive Technology User Fellow, empowering the assistive technology movement worldwide.

Previously, Nayem worked on disability inclusion and democratic governance programs with organizations including CEPPS, IFES, MGR, and PDF. He is a recipient of the Amra Notun Young Changemakers' Award 2023 from BRAC.



Catherine (Cathy) Mantswe

Catherine Cathy Mantswe is an 18-year-old form four student at Gaborone Senior Secondary School in Gaborone, Botswana. She was born with Osteogenesis imperfecta, a genetic brittle bone disease that is incurable and makes it difficult for her to walk without support.

As a young person living with a disability, Cathy is passionate about raising awareness and advocating for children with disabilities, the right to education, and child protection issues. In 2021, Cathy co-hosted the inaugural conference for children and young people forum (CY21)

She interacted with the President of Botswana and seized the opportunity to advocate for inclusive education that caters to students with disability. Cathy recently handed over 75 letters on Reimagine education to the President and Cabinet Ministers. The letters were written as part of the commemoration of UNICEF's 75th anniversary.

Cathy is a passionate public speaker who has participated in several initiatives held under Children's Month of Broadcasting Commemoration where she facilitated panel discussions and was interviewed by several radio stations to share views on issues affecting children. Cathy is the current President of the Student Representative Council at Sedibelo Junior Secondary School, and she regularly engages with school management on student welfare issues.



Tala Ismail Al Ramahi

Tala Al Ramahi is a Director at the Office of Strategic Affairs at the Presidential Court of Abu Dhabi. Al Ramahi plays a lead role in shaping the strategy for the Presidential Court's global health philanthropy, and disability & inclusion portfolios.



Keely Cat-Wells

Keely is an Entrepreneur and Disability Rights Activist who founded a company in the hospital that became C Talent a talent agency that represents Disabled talent, later acquired by Whalar in 2022, the acquisition marked one of the largest known investments made in disability representation within the creative industries. C Talent placed disabled talent in thousands of projects on platforms such as HBO, Amazon, Disney and so many more. Post-acquisition, Keely founded Making Space, a talent acquisition and learning experience platform for companies to access prequalified underrepresented talent, and bridging education-employment gap. With Sophie Morgan, she co-founded Making Space Media, a brand under the Making Space umbrella that creates film & TV that centres the Disabled voice. They have secured a first-look deal with Reese Witherspoon's company, Hello Sunshine.

