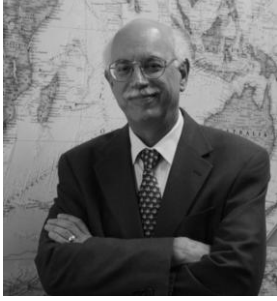


BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS



Prof. Andrew S. Natsios, Former USAID Administrator; Executive Professor at the George H.W. Bush School of Government at Texas A&M University

Since 2012 Andrew S. Natsios has served as Executive Professor at the George H.W. Bush School of Government at Texas A&M University and was Director of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs between 2012-2025. He was Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University from 2006-2012 and former Administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) from 2001-2006, U.S. Presidential Envoy to Sudan from 2006-2007, and served in the US Army Reserves for 22 years retiring as a Lt. Col. He was Vice President of World Vision, the international faith-based NGO from 1993-1998. He served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1975-87, and as Massachusetts Secretary of Administration and Finance (the COO of state government), and as CEO of the Big Dig (the largest construction project in US history) in Boston after a cost-overrun scandal. He is the author of three books. He edited two books: *Russia under Putin: Fragile State and Revisionist Power* (2025) and with Andy Card, *Transforming Our World: The Foreign Policy of George H.W. Bush*. (2023) His fourth book on USAID will be published by Bloomsbury, *Guns Are Not Enough: Foreign Aid in the National Interest*. (2025 forthcoming). Natsios serves on the boards of the American Academy of Diplomacy, Harvest Plus Solutions, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and the Committee on Human Rights in North Korea, among others.



Anne Hayes, Founding Partner & Executive Director

Anne M. Hayes is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Inclusive Development Partners (IDP), where she leads strategy, operations, and a global portfolio advancing disability-inclusive education and development. With nearly three decades of experience spanning USAID, UNICEF, the World Bank, and leading international implementers, Anne brings extensive technical expertise in Universal Design for Learning (UDL), the assessment and identification of learners with disabilities, the development of accessible learning materials, and the strengthening of inclusive systems. Anne has directed and supported inclusive programs worldwide, serving as a lead technical expert on numerous donor-funded initiatives. She has authored and co-authored influential publications and guidance documents on disability-inclusive education and pedagogy, including USAID's widely used toolkit, "Universal Design for Learning to Help All Children Read: Promoting Literacy for Learners with Disabilities." Earlier in her career, Anne served as the Disability and Gender Specialist at USAID and later helped shape donor coordination on disability within the World Bank's Global Partnership on Disability and Development (GPDD). She also played an active role in NGO advocacy during the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as a Steering Committee Member of the International Disability Caucus (IDC). Having worked in more than 35 countries, Anne partners with ministries of education, multilateral and bilateral donors, NGOs, and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to translate policy into practice. She holds a Master's degree in International Education Development from George Washington University and dual Bachelor's degrees in Spanish and Latin American Studies from the University of Kansas. Anne is also the mother of two children, one of whom has a disability requiring significant support needs—an experience that continues to deepen her personal and professional commitment to inclusive development.



Dr. Valerie Karr, Founding Partner & President

Dr. Valerie Karr is an international expert in inclusive education and disability-inclusive development, with over two decades of experience advancing human rights and social inclusion globally. Her research and advocacy center on ensuring that marginalized populations, particularly children and adults with disabilities, have equitable access to education, employment, and community life within the global development agenda. Guided by the “Leave No One Behind” movement of the Sustainable Development Goals, her work integrates rights-based approaches into national systems through evidence generation, capacity building, and policy reform. Transdisciplinary in nature, Dr. Karr’s

expertise spans inclusive education, human rights, international development, and public policy. She has led complex research and evaluation initiatives for the United Nations, the World Bank, USAID, and national ministries, with a focus on inclusive education systems, disability data, and equitable access to services. Dr. Karr has served as Principal Investigator for multi-country studies and national surveys across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa, including work in Cambodia, Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, and Syria. Her work engages stakeholders at every level—from ministries and schools to civil society organizations and parent networks—to develop and test contextually grounded tools and frameworks for inclusion. Recent projects include a national prevalence study on disability in Ethiopia, a rights-based reform of social protection for persons with disabilities in Lebanon, and a longitudinal study of early intervention centers in Malaysia. Dr. Karr is an Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where her scholarship focuses on disability-inclusive development, human rights, and education systems reform. Her publications include contributions to the *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, and *Disability and the Global South*, advancing global evidence on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and inclusive education policy.



Katherine Guernsey, former USAID Disability Rights Coordinator

As USAID’s Disability Rights Coordinator, Katherine Guernsey was responsible for advising the Agency on disability inclusion at both the program and policy levels and managed the Agency’s Disability Program Fund. In this capacity, she worked to promote U.S. development assistance that recognized and respected persons with disabilities and their representative organizations as not only development beneficiaries on an equal basis with others, but as partners in the design, implementation, and evaluation

of projects that impact the lives of the world’s more than one billion persons with disabilities. Katherine is a public international lawyer who has dedicated her career to the field of human rights, with an emphasis on disability inclusive development and diplomacy. Much of her work has focused on enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to effectively formulate and implement disability-inclusive policies and practices. She was extensively involved in negotiation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), working alongside both governmental and non-governmental delegations. She has authored numerous publications associated with the treaty and international disability law and policy. From 2010-2017, she served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, Judith Heumann, at the U.S. Department of State, promoting disability-inclusive diplomacy as a priority in U.S. foreign policy. Katherine received her Master of Laws in international and comparative law from The George Washington University Law School, and her Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees from Ohio Northern University.



José María Viera, Executive Director of the International Disability Alliance (IDA)

José María Viera is a globally recognized leader in disability rights and inclusive development, with more than 25 years' experience shaping policy, strengthening movements, and advancing disability-inclusive development worldwide. As Executive Director of the International Disability Alliance (IDA), he leads a global network representing over 5,500 Organizations of Persons with Disabilities across 182 countries, ensuring that the leadership and priorities of persons with disabilities inform global development agendas. He represents persons with disabilities at the United Nations as Permanent Representative of the UN Stakeholder Group for the

Sustainable Development Goals. He co-chairs the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network. Previously, José served as CEO of the World Blind Union, where he played a key role in advancing the global implementation of the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty. Grounded in his lived experience as a person with a disability, he leads with a commitment to delivering meaningful change in the lives of persons with disabilities



Stuart Chauluka, Technical Expert, Inclusive Development Partners

Stuart Chauluka is a distinguished inclusive education specialist with over 15 years of experience advancing accessibility and equity in Malawi. Guided by his lived experience as a person with a visual impairment, he has dedicated his career to empowering learners with disabilities and strengthening inclusive education systems. Stuart holds a Master's Degree in Arts and Community Development. He currently serves as Project Manager at the Malawi Union of the Blind (MUB), where he leads national advocacy and capacity-building initiatives to promote the rights and inclusion of persons with

disabilities. Previously, Stuart worked as Universal Access Specialist for the USAID-funded NextGen project under Malawi's National Reading Program, collaborating closely with the Ministry of Education to integrate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles into national curriculum and assessment frameworks. A recognized expert in the development of accessible learning materials, Stuart provides strategic leadership for school-based inclusion planning at both local and national levels. His work also includes community outreach and behavior change initiatives that equip parents, educators, and local leaders with practical strategies to foster inclusive and supportive learning environments across Malawi.



Susan Reichle, Co-Founder, Aid Transition Alliance Project

Susan Reichle is the co-founder of the Aid Transition Alliance project. Susan was the Chief Executive Officer of the International Youth Foundation (IYF) for seven years after twenty-six years with USAID's Foreign Service. Her decades of experience in global development with a vast network enables her to bring development practitioners together. During her tenure with USAID, she served overseas in Haiti, Nicaragua, Russia and Colombia before returning to Washington to lead the Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance and Policy, Planning and Learning Bureaus before serving as Counselor, the Agency's most senior foreign service officer. While at IYF, she strengthened its monitoring, evaluation and research capabilities and its commitment to organizational capability and data-driven accountability. Susan is member of the American Academy of Diplomacy, the National Security Leaders of America, Executive Committee of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network and Chair of the Coalition for Racial Ethnic Equity in Development.



Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, former USAID Senior Coordinator on Disability Inclusive Development

Served as USAID's coordinator for disability and inclusive development, appointed by U.S. President Barack Obama in 2011 to lead the government's efforts in disability inclusive development. Earlier in her career, she was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to the South African Human Rights Commission, focusing on social and economic rights, disability rights, and child rights.