



**WSIS
FORUM 2021**
Starting from January
Final Week 17-21 May 2021

Thematic Workshop: Inclusive Access to Quality Education for All – Resilient Education Systems

Thursday, 1st April 2021: 14:00 - 15:00 CEST

Description of the Session:

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented school closures across the globe, affecting nearly 1.6 billion or over 90% of learners in more than 190 countries. As multiple waves of infection continue to affect countries and with uncertainty around when we will see mass vaccinations, the crisis is far from over. It is undoing years of educational progress and worsening pre-existing educational inequalities. The United Nations estimates that 23.8 million additional children and youth may drop out or not have access to school this year due to the pandemic's economic impact alone, which in turn will impact upon their future opportunities to acquire skills and jobs.

In response to this deepening educational crisis, many countries have been innovative in promoting education and training continuity through the use of broadcasting and digital technologies from radio, television and mobile phones, to online classes via Zoom and other platforms.

This session will highlight case studies and the need to holistically consider digital resilience across the entire education system to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The international speakers will provide a unique insight into their innovative approach to education and discuss the need for multi-dimensional alignment and harmonization of infrastructure, capacity, online content, pedagogical practices, support networks and administration systems for offline and online education. The goal is to provide a roadmap and lessons learned to build inclusive and resilient education systems addressing the underlying inequalities in education, strengthening communities and countries against future shocks and crises, and enabling citizens to fully reap the benefits of digital technologies and prepare for the future of work.

Moderator:

Dr Salma Abbasi, Chairperson and CEO, eWorldwide Group (eWWG)

Speakers and Panelists:

1. **Dr. Asmaa Alfadala**, Qatar Foundation, Director of Research, WISE
2. **Dr. Mindel van de Laar**, PhD and Digital Learning Programme Director, UNU-MERIT
3. **Dr. Shehu Usman Muhammad Makarfi**, Commissioner of Education, Kaduna State, Nigeria
4. **Md. Afzal Hossain Sarwar**, Policy Specialist, Educational Innovation, a2i, Government of Bangladesh
5. **Ms. Melissa Sassi**, Chief Penguin, IBM Z – Student & Entrepreneur Experience, IBM
6. **Ministry of Education**, Republic of Ghana (TBC)

Moderator



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Chairperson and CEO, eWorldwide
Group (eWWG)

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Dr. Asmaa Alfadala
Qatar Foundation,
Director of Research,
WISE



Dr. Mindel van de Laar
PhD and Digital Learning
Programme Director,
UNU-MERIT



**Dr. Shehu Usman
Muhammad Makarfi**
Commissioner of Education,
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