

48<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Education



## Workshop 1

# **Inclusive Education: An Issue of Human Rights and Social Justice**

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de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

## International Conference on Education Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future



# INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: AN ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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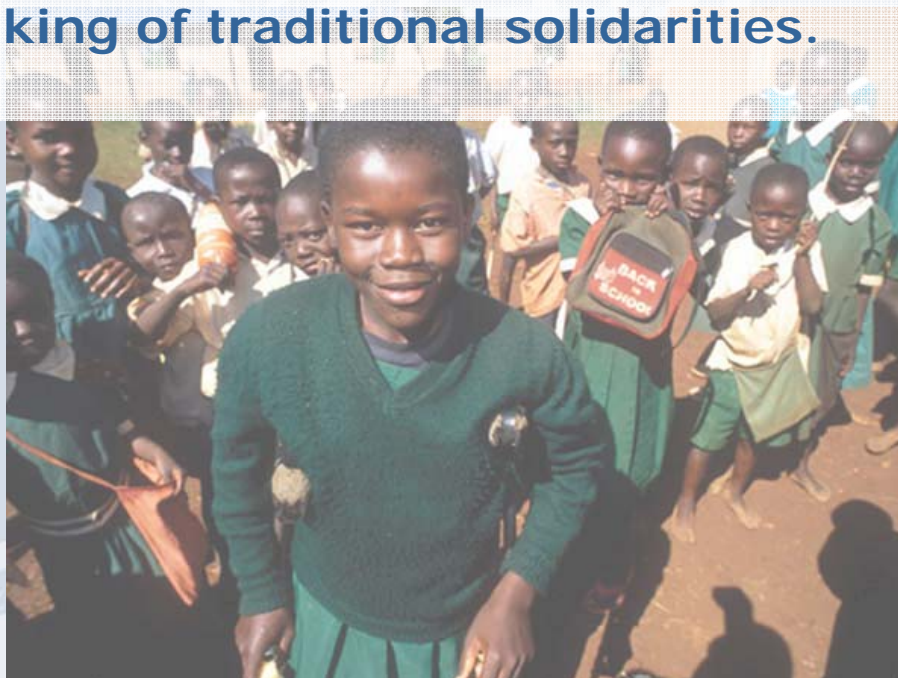


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## Social exclusion of groups and people due to:



- Inequalities among and within countries.
- Social and cultural segmentation.
- Rootlessness produced by migrations or rural exodus.
- The breaking of traditional solidarities.





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## There is a dialectical relationship between education and social inclusion



Education can contribute to achieve equal opportunity for social integration, but a minimum level of social equity is also required to achieve the democratization of access to knowledge.

It is necessary to develop educational policies that deal in a comprehensive manner with the factors that generate exclusion, discrimination or inequality.





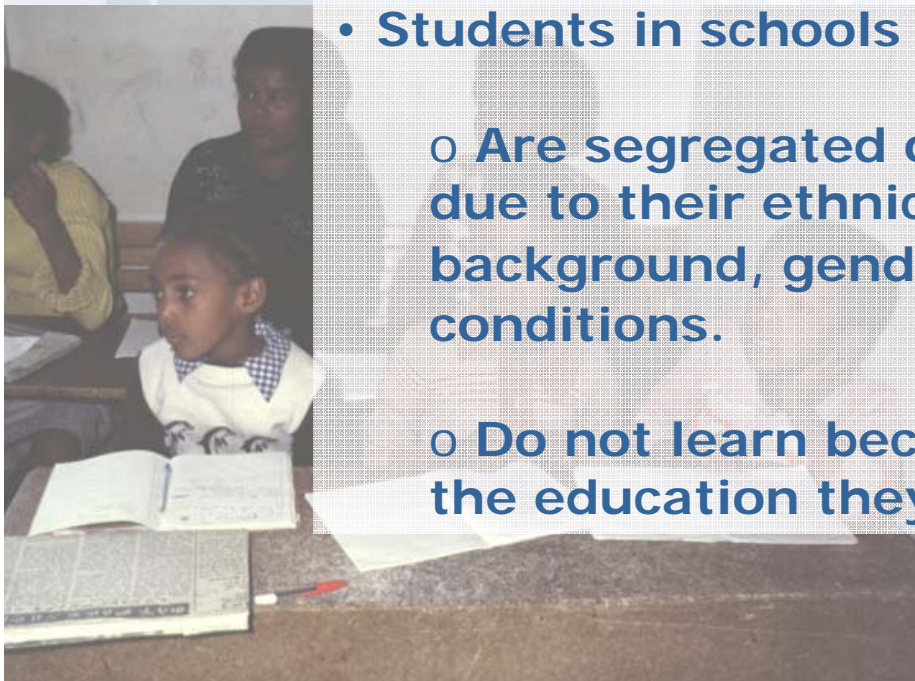
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## Is education contributing to the achievement of greater social inclusion?



**In spite of the efforts made, exclusion in education is a phenomenon of great magnitude in many countries, which affects:**

- **Students that are outside school because they have never accessed it or have dropped out.**
- **Students in schools that:**
  - **Are segregated or discriminated against due to their ethnic, social or cultural background, gender, capacity or living conditions.**
  - **Do not learn because of the bad quality of the education they receive.**





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## What is inclusive education?



**It is a process aimed at responding to students diversity, increasing their participation and reducing exclusion in and from education.**

**It is related to access, participation and learning achievements of all students, with special emphasis on those who, for different reasons, are excluded or run the risk of being marginalized. (UNESCO 2005).**





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## From integration to inclusion



**Integration and inclusion are movements with a different aim and focus, promoting different educational policies and practices. Going from integration to inclusion implies:**

- **The shift from assuring the right of some traditionally excluded groups, to educating all students in mainstream schools that provide an equal quality education to all.**
- **The shift from individualized actions for the “integrated students”, to the transformation of educational systems and schools for them to respond to diversity and the needs of all. Diversification and universal designs.**





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## Inclusion is characterized by:

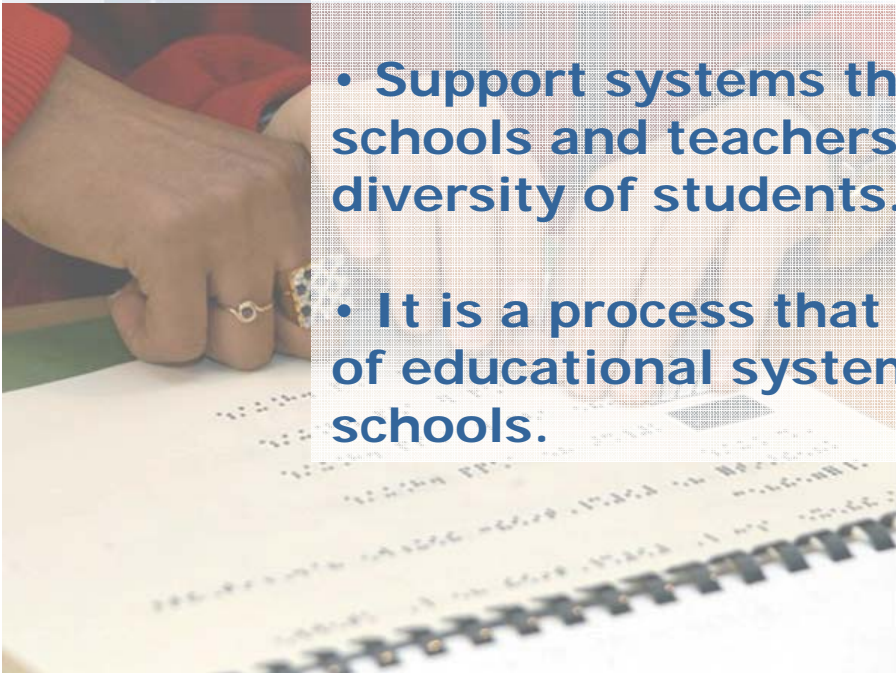


**A different view of education, based on diversity and not on homogeneity. Balance between what is common and what is diverse.**

- **It aims at identifying and minimizing the barriers students face to access and remain in school, participate and learn. The problem is not the student but the system.**

- **Support systems that collaborate with schools and teachers in responding to the diversity of students.**

- **It is a process that implies a systemic change of educational systems and of the cultures of schools.**





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## Why is inclusive education important?



- To ensure the right of all to equal quality education and non discrimination.
- To advance towards more democratic and just societies.
- To improve the quality of education and the professional development of teachers.
- To learn to live together and build a personal identity.





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# How to advance towards inclusive policies and schools. The agenda of inclusion



- **Building a comprehensive approach of inclusive education with a wide participation.**
- **Designing long-term policies with a rights-based approach.**
- **Reviewing legislation from the perspective of inclusion and diversity.**
- **Developing intersectoral policies with interinstitutional coordination at local level.**
- **Moving forward from standardized strategies to approaches that consider diversity and social cohesion.**



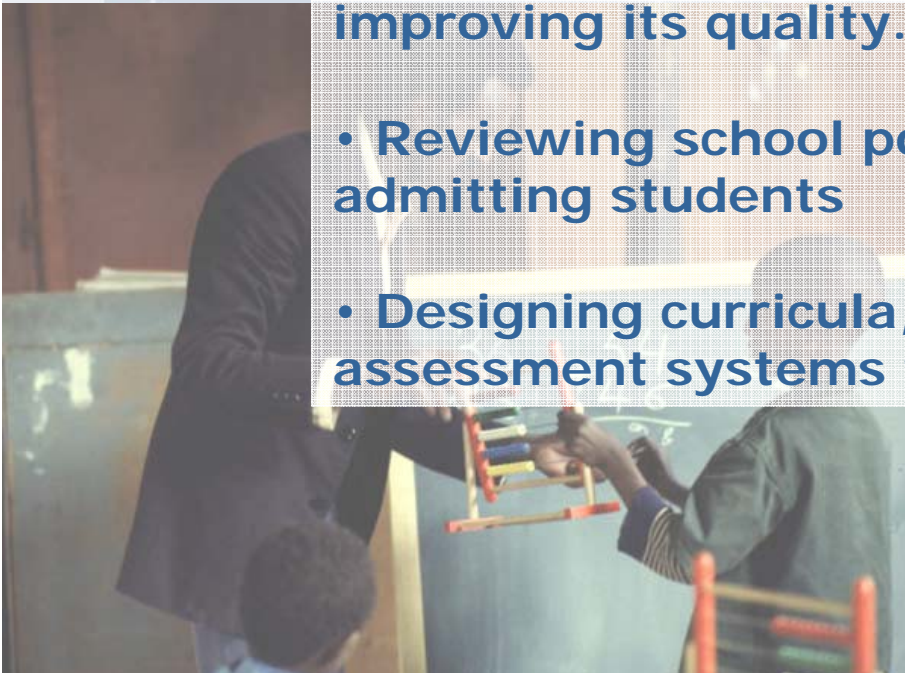


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## How to advance towards inclusive policies and schools. The agenda of inclusion



- **Designing equity policies focused on the development of people and preventive measures.**
- **Promoting flexibility and diversification of the educational provision.**
- **Strengthening public education and improving its quality.**
- **Reviewing school policies and procedures for admitting students**
- **Designing curricula, teaching strategies and assessment systems that consider diversity.**





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## How to advance towards inclusive policies and schools. The agenda of inclusion



- **Reviewing the funding schemes to make an equitable distribution of the resources.**
- **Analysing decentralization models to prevent the widening of inequalities.**
- **Developing comprehensive policies in relation to teacher and other educational professionals.**
- **Ensuring support systems to schools that most need them.**



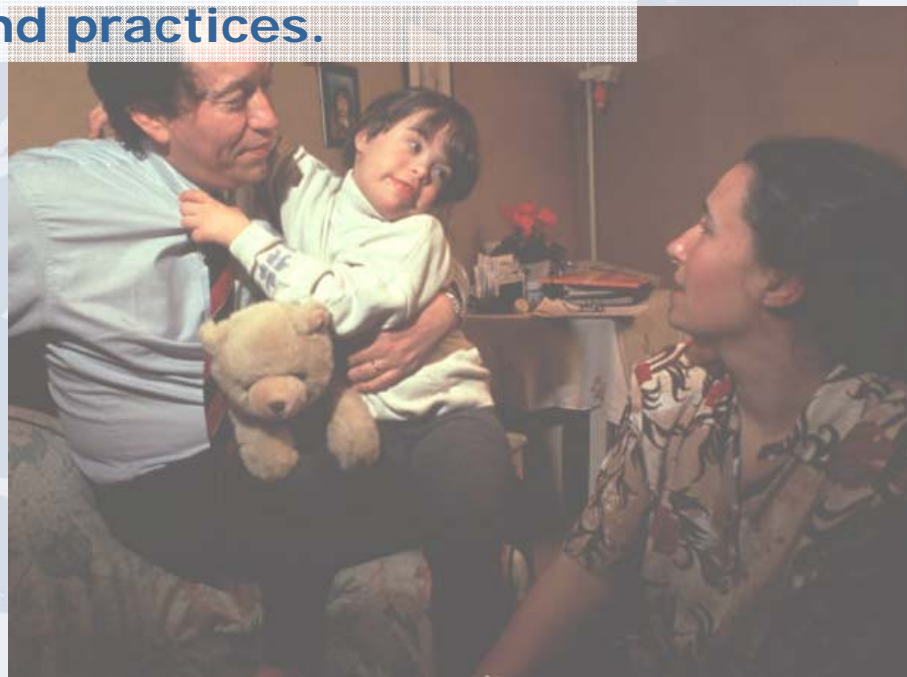


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## How to advance towards inclusive policies and schools. The agenda of inclusion



- **Paying special attention to the affective and emotional aspects.**
- **Researching and studying the development of inclusive schools.**
- **Defining indicators of inclusion for the assessment of policies and practices.**





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***In that School they gave no opportunities to me; they made me leave the classroom for any reason, and they called those who got bad qualifications "the no future" ones. They told me they could do nothing more with me... that either I left or they would make me leave... I only had those two options.***

***Pedro, 13 years old***



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**Thank you  
Muchas gracias**