

**LIVE WEBCAST Thursday 27 November, 6.15pm to 7.30 pm**

## **From Theory to Practice: youth address ministers of education on policies and ground realities**

### **The Event**

"From theory to practice" a roundtable moderated by renowned BBC journalist Tim Sebastian, will bring together a group of young people, who have fought against seemingly impossible odds for a place in a classroom, with government ministers from different regions of the world. Together, they will discuss the complex issue of inclusive education. Inclusive education is about reaching out to all those who are excluded from educational opportunities regardless of their origin or situation.

The roundtable is one of the events being held at the 48th session of UNESCO's International Conference taking place in Geneva this week, and which is focused on this critical theme.

### **The Participants**

The young people taking part include: Victor Pineda, a doctoral student from the United States and Venezuela, Kentaro Fukuchi, an officer with the Red Cross Japanese Society; Kamar Eid and Abir Kassem, a young Palestinian girl participating in a Community Learning Centre and the Director of that Community Learning Centre in the Shattila Refugee Camp in Lebanon; Hindou Ou  arou Brahim, Coordinator of the Association of Female Autochthonous People from Chad; Natalia Maria Vlada Buga, President of the Association of Students with Disabilities, Moldova; and Anick Kohli from the Swiss UN Youth Delegates.

The participating ministers are: Charles Beer, State Counselor, Department of Education, Republic and Canton of Geneva (Switzerland); Eva Almunia Badia, State Secretary of Education and Training (Spain); Naledi Pandor, Minister of Education (South Africa); Raul Vallejo Corral, Minister of Education (Ecuador); Cecilia Maria Velez White, Minister of Education (Colombia).

The UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, Nicholas Burnett, along with several other education experts, will also take part.

Tim Sebastien, a former presenter of the BBC's HARDTalk programme, is currently the Chairman of the Doha Debates, a forum for free speech in Qatar, which is broadcast monthly on BBC World News.

### **The Focus**

Today, 75 million children are still not enrolled in school. More than half are girls. Poverty and marginalization are major causes of exclusion. Children from remote communities, urban slums, indigenous children, working children, nomads, or children living in conflict or post-conflict situations all face extreme difficulty in gaining an education. In developing countries, 90 percent of disabled children do not attend school.

The roundtable will look at some of these difficulties, and the daunting but essential task faced by governments to respect what is a universally recognized basic human right.

**Watch the webcast live (in English only) at [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)**