

2ND ICEVI AFRICA CONFERENCE
Emperors Palace Hotel and Convention Centre
28 September- 01 October 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Programme Director: Dr Praveena Sukhraj-Ely, Director-General, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, The Presidency, Republic of South Africa.

09:00-17:00: PRECONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

09:00-15:00: DAISY Africa Network Meeting: Richard Orme - Senate Room
11:00-12:00: Briefing of Volunteers - Tiberius Room
12:00-17:00: Registration of Participants - Tiberius Room
12:00-17:00: Exhibition Setup - NCC Room

19:00-22:00: Opening & Networking Dinner for All Registered Participants- Fabia Room

14:00–19:00 Registration and arrival – Prinshof & ICEVI logistics team
19:00-19:05: Opening and Welcome – Karin Swart, Principal, Prinshof School
19:05-19:10: Short Video – Karin Swart, Principal, Prinshof School
19:10-19:15: Welcome from ICEVI Africa - Martin Kieti, Secretary-General, ICEVI Africa
19:15-19:25: Remarks from Sponsors – Leah Kiambi, Modern Solutions Limited
19:25-20:00: Introductions - All
20:00-21:00: Dinner & Networking - All
21:00-22:00: Networking and Leisure - All

29TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Programme Director: Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely (DG: DWYPD)

08:00-08:45: Arrival and Tea

08:30-17:00: Exhibitions - NCC Room

08:45-11:00: PLENARY SESSION 1 - ASSEMBLY I & II

Moderator: Dr Praveena Sukhraj-Ely

08:45-09:30: Messages and Announcements

Anthems and Prayers - Prinshof School
Welcome Remarks – Karin Swart, Principal, Prinshof School,
Welcome Remarks - Susan LaVenture, President, ICEVI Global
Welcome Remarks - Ayassou Komivi, President, ICEVI Africa
Acting HOD to announce the MEC
Remarks by Chief Guest - MEC for Education
Music Interlude - Marimba Band/Choir
Program Director to announce the Keynote Speakers for the plenary

09:30-11:00: Keynote Presentations

P1: Braille Literacy And Numeracy - Celebrating The Legacy Of Louis Braille

P1.1 The Power of Touch Preserving Legacy
Ms Jana Veldsman

P1.2 More Braille: More Empowerment – Building a Sustainable Future for Braille Literacy in Africa
Dr Frances Gentle

P1.3 Braille, Technology, and Human Rights: Shaping the Future of Education for Learners with Visual Impairments in Africa
Ms Susan LaVenture

P1.4 Education Advocacy In Africa: Gaps Observed From Eight Years On The UN CRPD Committee
Mrs Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame

P1.5 The status of braille: challenges and opportunities for UEB - South African context
Mr Ntshavheni Netshituni

11:00–11:15: MORNING BREAK

11:15–12:45: BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1-4

B1: Early Childhood Development and Early Intervention - Assembly I & II

Moderator: Mike Bina

B1.1. Strong Foundations: Early Childhood Care and Education for Children who are Blind, Have Low Vision, or are Deafblind - Dr Frances Gentle

B1.2. The Lego Braille Bricks – Ms Margaret Njayakio

B1.3. Early Habilitation Interventions — Mr Molemisi Kono

B1.4 ECD Interventions in poor resource countries – Jace Nair

B2: Accessible Reading, Libraries and Visual Information - Julia Room

Moderator: Silatul Rahim Bin Dahman

B2.1. Cameroon's First Accessible Digital Library — Dr Bridget Longla

B2.2. Umsizi Reader in Action — Mr Unarine Mphephu

B2.3. Improving Accessibility to Visual Information — Ms Anoek Scholtus

B2.4. Strategies to Increase Accessible Books for the Visually Impaired – Richard Orme

B3: Assistive Technology for Learning and Independence - Romanus Room

Moderator: Mr Nicholas Hoekstra

B3.1. Beyond Access: Assistive and Digital Technologies — Mrs Celine Mutisya

B3.2. JAWS Picture Smart in the Classroom & Zoom Text — Mr Jan Bloem

B3.3. Back to Basics in a Fast-Moving World of Assistive Technology and AI – Mr Pieter Labuschagne

B3.4. BRAILLE Forward: Developing a Dynamic Braille Ecosystem Framework to Advance Literacy, Innovation and Lifelong Inclusion in Africa - Dr. Ashley Subbiah

B4: Family, Community and Care Partnerships - Assembly IV

Moderator: Hanneli van Tonder

B4.1. Building Circles of Care — Mrs Tanya Venter

B4.2. The Primary Role of Families in Care Support, and Development of Children with Visual Impairment – Krish Shunmugam

B4.3. Enhancing Cognitive Development & Educational Outcomes for Children with Visual Impairment - Ms Dharmisha Cvetkovic

Mr Simangaliso Siyabonga Mchunu

12:45–13:45: LUNCH BREAK

13:45–15:15: BREAKOUT SESSIONS 5-8

B5: Braille Standards, E-Braille and Numeracy - Assembly I & II

Moderator: Gladys Correa

B5.1. Get More Braille with E-Braille and Standards — Dr Dipendra Manocha

B5.2. Best Practices for Teaching Numeracy — Karien Botha

B5.3. Braille Without a Standard — Ms Regina Zilevu

B5.4. Inclusive Didactics for Experimental Sciences — Yawo Dotse Badaku-Kpalley

B6: Accessible STEM and Science Pedagogy - Julia Room

Moderator: Judit Gombas

B6.1. MathCAT: Bridignig, Math, Speech & Braille - Richard Orme
B6.2. Inclusive Robotics — Mr Ignatius Kweyu
B6.3. Reimagining STEM — Dr Kudzai Shava
B6.4. Inclusive Didactics for Experimental Sciences — Dr Yawo Dotse Badaku-Kpalley

B7: Accessible ICT, Digital Skills and Participation - Romanus Room

Moderator: Mr Ayassou Komivi

B7.1. Beyond the Screen Reader: New Technologies, New Skills, Enduring Foundations - Nicholas Hoekstra
B7.2. Accessible ICT in Nepal — Dr Birendra Raj Sharma Pokharel
B7.3. Building the Basics for Digital Participation – Anthony Dodds
B7.4. Accessible ICT - Pedro Polson

B8: Deafblindness, Additional Disabilities and Community - Assembly IV

Moderator: Mr Akhil Paul

B8.1. Beyond Checklists — Mr Basem Ahmed AbdelGhaffar Mohamad
B8.2. Unpaid Care Work, Disability and Gender-Based Violence — Neema Kalole
B8.3. Impact of Deafblindness - Albert Peters
B8.4. Inclusive Education & Outcomes for Children with Albinism – Patrick Wadula

15:15–15:30: AFTERNOON BREAK

15:30-17:00: WORKSHOP SESSIONS 1-4

W1.1 Transiting to Unified English Braille – Sharing Experiences Around Africa and the World - Assembly I & II

Mr Fredrick Haga

W1.2. Low-Cost 3D Printing of Educational Classroom Tools

Mr Samuel Foulkes

W2. Art of Living SA – Julia Room

Ms Dharmisha Cvetkovic

Mr Simangaliso Siyabonga Mchunu

W3.1 Building Skills, Creating Futures: Preparing for Employment and Self-Employment – Romanus Room

Dr Ariné Kuyler and Kyle Williams

W3.2 Using The New JAWS AI Assistant

Mr Jan Bloem

W4.1. Geometry Tools and Tips for Low Vision and Blind Learners - Assembly IV

Mrs Robyn Fick

W4.2 Accessibility Tool for Learning Mathematics

Ms Mary Liyaga

30TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Programme Director: Mr. Martin Kieti, Secretary-General, ICEVI Africa .

08:00-08:45: Arrival and Tea
08:30-17:00: Exhibitions - NCC Room

08:45-11:00: PLENARY SESSION 2 - ASSEMBLY I & II

08:45-09:30: Messages and Announcements

Teaching for All - Teacher Preparation for Education of Learners with Low Vision, Blindness and Deafblindness - Dr Frances Gentle & Dr Kay Ferrell (online)

09:00-11:00: Keynote Presentations

P2: Deploying Digital Technologies in the Education of Learners with Visual Impairment

P2.1 From Invisibility to Possibility: Reimagining the Life: Trajectories of Children with Blindness - Dr Satish Tripathi

P2.2 Marrakesh Treaty & the Accessible Books Consortium - Ms Monica Halil

P2.3 Closing the Gap Between Books & Learners - Mr Richard Orme

P2.4 Visionary Learning Technology Initiative - An ICEVI Flagship Project - Dr Praveena Sukhraj-Ely

P2.5 Inclusive Employment Promotion
Dr Thomas Ongolo

11:00–11:15: MORNING BREAK

11:15–12:45: BREAKOUT SESSIONS 9-12

B9: Artificial Intelligence and Inclusive Education - Assembly I & II

Moderator: Mr Martin Kieti

B9.1. Harnessing Artificial Intelligence — Dr Kudzai Shava
B9.2. Technology and AI for Persons with Additional Disabilities — Mr Akhil Paul

B9.3. Contribution of AI in Learning & Teaching – Simmi Pillay
B9.4. AI in Content Accessibility - Dr Dipendra Manocha

B10: Inclusive Education Systems and Provision - Claudius Room

Moderator: Dr Birendra Raj Sharma Pokharel

B10.1. Inclusive Education in SA - Jabulani Ngcobo
B10.2. Inclusive Education: A Dream or a Reality – Mr Jace Nair
B10.3. L'Education des Apprenants Handicapés Visuels au Togo (The Education of Learners with Visual Impairments in Togo). — Dr Bouraïma Asmanou
B10.4. Lived Experiences of Inclusive Education — Ms Vangile Nyamathe

B11: Orientation, Mobility and Universal Design - Romanus Room

Moderator: Mr Will Clurman

B11.1. The Exclusion Within Inclusion — Mrs Tanya Venter
B11.2. Audio Description A Game Changer in O&M- Ms Shakila Maharaj
B11.3. Beyond Getting There: Orientation, Mobility and the Design of Participation – Dr Ashley Subbiah
B11.4. Orientation & Mobility Services in Trinada and Tobago - Kenneth Surratt

B12: Braille Literacy: Foundations and Empowerment - Assembly IV

Moderator: Dr Bridget Longla

B12.1. More Braille: More Empowerment — Dr Frances Gentle
B12.2. From Six Dots to Unlimited Possibilities: Braille as a Foundation for Empowerment – Mr Deenadayalan Moodley
B12.3. Braille Literacy in the Digital Era — Mrs Cecilia Njeru
B12.4. Beyond Policy Rhetoric — Mr Michael Fadeyi

12:45–13:45: LUNCH BREAK

13:45–15:15: BREAKOUT SESSIONS 13-16

B13: College Teaching and Student Inclusion- Assembly I & II

Moderator: Ms Martine Abel-Williamson

B13.1. Students with Albinism in Higher Education — Dr Rovashni Chetty
B13.2. College Student Inclusion – Mr Deenadayalan Moodley
B13.3. Strategies for building inclusive Education in low resources environments Mr Nick Hoekstra
B13.4. From Rehabilitation to Inclusion: The Role of Community-Based Rehabilitation in Promoting Educational Opportunities for Children with Disabilities in Ethiopia
Dr. Abebe Yehualawotk Malle

B14: TVET, Work Readiness and Employment - Claudius Room

Moderator: Ms Susan LaVenture

B14.1. Transition from School to Work — Ms Holly Stevens & Ms Gunpreet Heir
B14.2. Strategies to Move the Needle – Len Viljoen
B14.3. Barriers to Employment for persons with visual impairment – Jace Nair
B14.4. Breaking Boundaries in Sight and Strategy: Charting Global Pathways for Inclusive Career Guidance for Learners with Visual Impairments — Lessons from Kenya – Dr Philomen Tanui

B15: Cross-Sector Innovation & Research - Romanus Room

Moderator: Mr Akhil Paul

B15.1. How Can We Educate All Children with Blindness in Africa: The Arunodaya (Sunrise) Way? – Ms Pallavi Kaushik and Dr Satish Tripathi
B15.2. ABC AI Tool — Ms Monica Halil Lovblad
B15.3. The Experience EKITABU – Will Clurman
B15.4. Kenya's Legal Obligations Under the UN CRPD — Ms Milcah Makato

B16: Sports, Arts, Culture and Wellbeing - Assembly IV

Moderator: Ms Neema Kalole

B16.1. Sports & Physical Education — Ms Mehak Aziz & Ms Arkezia Mella
B16.2. Sports sans Barrières — Mr Komivi Nestor Agbokou
B16.3. Sports, Arts, Culture & Wellbeing – Mr Kenneth Mabela
B16.4. Re-imagining the Way of Sports and Recreation is Regarded for Blind and Visually Chalanged Learners Mary Xavier Buys

15:15–15:30: AFTERNOON BREAK

15:30-17:00: WORKSHOP SESSIONS 5-7

CLOSED FOR GALA DINNER PREPARATION

W5. Teaching for All, ICEVI's Start Up Curriculum - Claudius Room

Dr Frances Gentle and Dr Kay Ferrell

W6.1 From Weeks to Hours: How AI Is Transforming Accessible Book Production - Romanus Room

Mr Richard Orme and Dr Dipendra Manocha

W6.2 The Struggle With Mathematics In The Classroom

Mr Jan Bloem

W7.1 Talking to Satish about creating opportunities for education in rural communities – Assembly IV

Dr Satish Tripathi

W7.2 Deafblindness

Mr Akhil Paul

18:00-20:00: GALA DINNER – ASSEMBLY I & II

1ST OCTOBER 2026

Programme Director: Ms Karin Swart, Principal, Prinshof School.

08:00-08:45: Arrival and Tea
08:30-17:00: Exhibitions - NCC Room

08:45-11:00: PLENARY SESSION 1 – ASSEMBLY I & II

08:45-09:30: Messages and Announcements

Film: The Light In My Eyes – Mr Akhil Paul & Ms Els De Keijer

Program Director to announce the Keynote Speakers for the plenary

09:30-11:00: Keynote Presentations

P3: Teacher Preparation and Transition to Adulthood for Learners with Visual Impairment

Moderator: Ms Karin Swart

P3.1. Engineering the Future of Tech Education and Employment — Mr Len Viljoen

P3.2 From Information to Inclusion: INSIGHT – Nelumbo Model — Mr Akhil Paul

P3.3 Capacity Building through Rights-Based Advocacy Training for Teachers and Parents in the Caribbean - Ms Susan LaVenture, Dr Mike Bina and Mr Kenneth Surratt

P3.4 Preparing for teaching and Learning of the Visually Impaired - Mr David Gengen

11:00–11:30: MORNING BREAK

11:30–13:00: BREAKOUT SESSIONS 17-20

B17: Teacher Preparation and Specialist Support - Assembly I & II

Moderator: Mrs Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame

B17.1. A Pilot of One — Mrs Robyn Fick
B17.2. Lived Experience of Teaching at a School for the Visually \Impaired - Ms Mary Liaga
B17.3. Preparing Teachers to Include Learners with Blindness: Lessons from the Sunrise Approach for Africa – Ms Pallavi Kaushik

B18: Higher Education Access, Belonging and Success - Julia Room

Moderator: Mr. Richard Orme

B18.1. Fees Must Fall as Ableism Continues to Stand — Mr Nevil Balakrishna
B18.2. Doctoral Students with Visual Impairment — Dr Judit Gombas
B18.3. Inclusion or Integration? Exploring the Experiences of Students with Visual Impairments at Higher Education Institutions in SA – Krish Shunmugam

B18.4. Financial Access for PWD to Higher Education – Dept of Higher Education & Training

B19: Adult, Non-Formal and Lifelong Learning - Romanus Room

Moderator: Mr Todd Reeves

1. We Live, We Learn: Proactive Lifelong Education – Vital for Enhancing Life Choices - Ms Martine Abel-Williamson
2. Making Kiosks Accessible — Mr Jan Bloem
3. Teaching Techniques to Assist Adults Transition to low vision, blindness and deaf blindness – Albert Peters
4. Braille Challenge – Kenya — Mr Samuel Foulkes

B20: Panel Discussion on ICEVI Global - Assembly IV

Moderator: Mr Fredrick Haga

Principal Officers & Regional Presidents

13:00–14:00: LUNCH BREAK

14:00–16:00 CLOSING PLENARY SESSION – ASSEMBLY I & II

P4: Closing Ceremony

Moderator: Mrs Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame

Closing Keynote

Gauteng Department of Education - Dr Hester Costa,

Reflections & Resolution

Facilitator: Dr Praveena Sukhraj-Ely

Mr Fred Haga

Ms Susan LaVenture

Mr Richard Orme

Mr Akhil Paul

Mr Todd Reeves

Mr Jace Nair

Resolutions

Zaheer Ally

Official Closing Remarks

Mr Ayassou Komivi
Ms Karin Swart

Vote of Thanks

Mr Martin Kieti

16:00–16:30: AFTERNOON BREAK AND DEPARTURE

2ND – 3RD OCTOBER 2026: ICEVI GLOBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING