**Concept Note: Global Disability Summit Side Event**

**Title: Strengthening inclusive education systems through partnerships, planning and capacity building.**

**Organized by:** UNICEF, UNESCO-International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

**Description of the event, aims or objectives:** This side event, co-hosted by UNICEF, UNESCO-IIEP and GPE will provide an update on the ongoing partnership to advance inclusive education through systems strengthening and capacity development. This will include updates on capacity building efforts in carrying out disability-inclusive education sector analysis and planning by spotlighting the recently launched chapter on Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in the Methodological Guidelines for Education Sector Analysis, Volume 3, and the delivery of the training course on the Foundations of Disability-Inclusive Education Sector Planning for technical staff within Ministries of Education.

The side event will bring together speakers from UNICEF, UNESCO-IIEP, GPE, and Ministries of Education, to highlight the partnership, share information about the Inclusive Education chapter and the Foundations course and learn about country experiences in learning and applying the skills acquired to advance systemic change and progress towards realizing inclusive education systems.

**Background:** Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) calls for countries to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030. Yet emerging evidence indicates that children with disabilities continue to be the most marginalized and excluded group within education systems. Addressing the needs of these children in national planning processes, notably education sector analysis and sector plans, is an important means of identifying and overcoming barriers to inclusion and of ensuring that education systems provide all children with equal opportunities for educational progress.

Based on the feedback received from governments and development partners and in response to emerging education sector trends and changing contexts, the ***Methodological Guidelines for Education Sector Analysis Volume 3, chapter on Inclusive Education*** was developed by UNESCO-IIEP, GPE and UNICEF, with support from FCDO, with the objective to provide methods for carrying out a comprehensive analysis of the education sector in lower-income countries through a disability-inclusive lens.

Recognizing the importance of disability-inclusive planning to reach SDG 4, UNESCO-IIEP and UNICEF have also been supporting Ministries of Education in strengthening their analytical, organizational, and human resource capacities for disability-inclusive education sector planning. The ***Foundations of Disability-Inclusive Education Sector Planning*** course provides participants from Ministries of Education with the skills and knowledge needed to mainstream disability inclusion into education sector plans. More than 300 participants from 38 countries across four regions have completed the course so far.

Time and date: 7am – 8am EST (New York), 1pm – 2pm (CET) February 16th, 2022

Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://unicef.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-oqEmZSeT-eV4nXbuOXxmA>