



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
New York

- INVITATION -



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Invisible Friend - Adult Education and the Sustainable Development Goals

Tuesday, July 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations,
871 United Nations Plaza, New York, Auditorium

The German government attaches great importance to the promotion of quality education and lifelong learning, key objectives of the 2030 Agenda under review during the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF). This holistic approach of ensuring lifelong learning opportunities for all constitutes a paradigm shift compared to the Millennium Development Goals, and requires more attention to adult learning and education (ALE) in a lifelong perspective. Hence, the promotion and expansion of ALE policies, strategies and practices constitute a critical means to achieving SDG 4 and the broader SDG vision.

Although the positive impacts of ALE on individuals, communities and society have been clearly demonstrated, many governments and donors remain hesitant about supporting and expanding adult education. This does not hold true for Germany where about 900 community-sponsored adult education centres (“Volkshochschulen”) have been providing further education opportunities throughout the country for 100 years. Furthermore, the German government (BMZ) has been supporting the creation of adult education policies and structures abroad for more than 50 years and in more than 30 countries through the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Association for the Education of Adults (DVV International).

The side event will highlight the relatively invisible, often underestimated potential of (non-formal) youth and adult education for sustainable development. It will discuss the critical importance of non-formal education approaches within SDG 4 and the many cross-sectoral linkages of ALE with other SDGs, especially those under review during this year’s HLPF. References will also be made to the role of ALE in the context of human migration and, particularly, in relation to the refugee crisis in Germany and other host countries.

The side event is organized by DVV International, together with UNESCO’s Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), governmental partners and umbrella organization from the civil society as well as academic experts from around the globe.

Provisional Agenda

- 18:00 Admission to Side-Event
- 18.30 **Introduction** by Ms. Karin Goebel, Head of Department for Economic and Financial Affairs, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations
- 18:35 **Opening Speech and Impulse** “The Role of Adult Learning and Education in the Context of Global Challenges and the Sustainable Development Goals”
Christoph Jost, Director DVV International, Bonn, Germany
- 18:45 **Panel Discussion** “Adult Learning and Education in the 2030 Agenda – Potential and Challenges”, facilitated by Dr. J. Roberto Guevara, RMIT University, Australia, Vice President (Asia Pacific) of the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE)

Panelists:

- Philany Phissamay, Deputy Director of Division Basic Vocational Training, Department of Non-Formal Education, Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR- tbc
- Hon. Peace Regis Mutuuzo, State Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda
- Werner Mauch, Senior Programme Specialist Adult Learning and Education, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)
- Dr. Katarina Popovic, University of Belgrad, Secretary General of the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE)
- Nani Zulminarni, President, Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)
- Aaron Benavot, Professor Global Education Policy, University at Albany State University New York, former Director of the Global Education Monitoring Report.

Panel discussion followed by comments and questions from the plenary.

- 19:55 **Final Statements and Closing remarks**

Refreshments and finger food will be served during the event.

For registration please contact Ms. Janna Schriegel (Schriegel@dvv-international.de) until Saturday, July 6, 2019.

We are looking forward to your participation!