

UNESCO CHAIR ON INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCES WEBINAR SERIES

Educating for Humanity: SEL and Intercultural Competence in Africa's Next Generation

Presented by

Dr. Mohammed Elmeski

Policy Advisor & Researcher | Chair, Africa Voices
Dialogue | Global SEL Network

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About the Webinar:

At a time of polarization, inequality, and global disruption, intercultural competence and social-emotional learning (SEL) matter more than ever. This webinar situates Africa at the forefront of reimagining education for humanity. It demonstrates how African perspectives on community, resilience, and dialogue can reframe global conversations on what it means to educate for a more inclusive, sustainable, and human-centered future.

About the Speaker:



Dr. Mohammed Elmeski is a senior advisor, educator, and international development expert in Comparative and International Education. He currently serves as *Chargé de Mission Éducation* at the Office of the Head of Government in Morocco, where he advises on national education policy across K–12, higher education, and vocational training. He also chairs the Governance Board of *Africa Voices Dialogue*, a pan-African platform dedicated to inclusive education policy dialogue.

Dr. Elmeski brings over 25 years of experience advancing equitable, learner-centered education systems across the Global South. He has led and advised education reform initiatives in more than 15 countries, including Morocco, Ethiopia, Haiti, Nepal, and Zambia. His leadership includes high-level roles

at the American Institutes for Research in Washington, D.C., and as Chief of Party for USAID's Higher Education Partnership in Morocco.

He is a member of the Executive Committee of *Karanga – The Global Alliance for Social Emotional Learning and Life Skills*, and a Fellow Researcher in the *International Study on Teacher Leadership*, contributing to the 2024 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report. His research and evaluation work has focused on social-emotional learning, teacher leadership, school transformation in marginalized communities, and intercultural partnership models.

A passionate advocate for intercultural dialogue in education, Dr. Elmeski has delivered keynote speeches in Ireland, Norway, Korea, China, and across Africa, and co-chaired the landmark ICSEI 2020 conference in Morocco under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI—expanding Global South participation in global school reform networks.

He earned his Ph.D. in Comparative International Development Education and Program Evaluation from the University of Minnesota. Fluent in Arabic, French, and English, Dr. Elmeski embodies a deep commitment to bridging cultural divides and fostering inclusive education systems that promote belonging, dignity, and human flourishing.