Welcome Video Transcript

[00:00:00] **Atif:** Hello and welcome. My name is Atif Choudhury. I am one of the founders and the CEO of Diversity and Ability D&A, who will be taking you all on this journey that you're with with us and the Commonwealth of Learning . I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you for being so enthusiastic about the work that's happening in The Small States

and to

thank our partners at the Commonwealth of learning and for all of you, for really putting in the time and the effort that we know is going to be meaningful for the work that you do and the people that you go on to support and I wanted to really stop as well. And just to welcome the two people that are leading this work with us and yourselves, which is Roxanne and

Ruksar.

And I hope that they will be able to support you all as much as you need and that you feel that you were able to tell us what it is that you need to make this work and this course is so meaningful for the years ahead.

[00:01:16] **Ruksar:** Hello everyone my name is Ruksar. I'm the project coordinator for Diversity and Ability international. My role involves developing situational analysis for each country we run the course in as well as researching course materials and supporting the facilitation of the course. We have previously delivered the course in Mauritius and Tonga.

I've really enjoyed the engagement and hearing the learners feedback and how the course has impacted their daily lives. I'm excited to see the course develop, progress and hopefully see a change where these tools are available to people who deserve to have access to them. I hope you really enjoy the course and I look forward to getting to know you better as the course progresses.

[00:02:03] **Roxanne:** Hello there, my name is Roxanne Steel and I work for Diversity and Ability in the training and innovations team. As part of my role as an access and inclusion advisor I have the opportunity to support D&A on the international projects and partnerships. So I'm really excited to be able to welcome you to this course, an introduction to assistive technologies.

I'm so excited about being a part of this process and a part of your D&I journey. For me, assistive technology has changed my life .Before working with D&A I didn't really understand how technology could help me or in fact, that I was using assistive technology already. So with the support, I have not only been able to understand

how assistive technology supports certain barriers for clients, but also been able to understand how assistive technology can support me to be more confident and productive within my day to day role.

This course will introduce you to what assistive technology is and what barriers it can help with, including looking at specific software and technology to help with barriers such as reading, writing, and organization. Once again, I am so excited to be able to support you during this course, and I really want to thank you for your commitment to diversity and inclusion.

I really look forward to getting to know you and wish you all the best of luck.