



9th International Day of Women & Girls in Science Assembly

8-9 February 2024
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Women in Science Leadership: a New Era for Sustainability

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

#February11 | #WomenLeadership | #ScienceSociety | #ScienceDiplomacy | #WomenInScience | #GirlsInScience | #EquityInScience

@WomenScienceDay | @RASITHQ

Concept Note

The Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT), co-organising and co-sponsoring Member States, UN Agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations are celebrating the **9th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly**, taking place on **8 and 9 February 2024** at the **United Nations Headquarters in New York**.

Following the adoption of **Resolution A/RES/70/212** on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, RASIT continues to work with UN Member States, Inter-Governmental Organizations, the UN and its entities to achieve equality in science, technology, and innovation for socio-economic sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Recognizing the role of women and girls in science as agents of change and the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the main theme for the 9th IDWGIS Assembly is: **“Women and Girls in Science Leadership – a New Era for Sustainability”**. The 9th Assembly will bring together women in science leaders and experts from around the world, high-level government officials, representatives of international organizations and the private sector to **discuss women leadership in achieving the three pillars of Sustainable Development**, namely *economic prosperity, social justice, and environmental integrity*.

As indicated in the herewith enclosed provisional program, this edition of the IDWGIS Assembly will focus on the key role of women experts in all fields of sciences in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the forthcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2024, namely SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and its nexus SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG13 (Climate Action). More specifically, it will:

- Highlight the role of women leadership in Diplomacy and International Affairs;
- Address gender responsive and human rights-based approach for achieving sustainable, equitable and inclusive socio-economic development;
- Zoom in on science diplomacy and science and society;
- Recognize the interplay and interdependency between science, technology, and green economic growth;
- Underline the inclusion of Women with Disabilities in National and International Affairs; and
- Promote Youth Leadership to Transforming Science and Culture Education.

The 9th Assembly will feature, for the first time, a STEM EXPO for Girls and female youth on the 8th of February, with the aim of raising awareness on the professions and career opportunities and inspiring girls and female youths in science.

Despite significant improvements in the last nine years of celebrating #February11, female youth are either not choosing STEM fields or leaving it after graduation. This is due to a variety of reasons, mostly related to the role allocated to women in modern society, the environment on international community and global policy arena, as well as pre-existing prejudices that form glass ceilings while encouraging male presence in the workplace. It is also however, a result of lack of information, which constrains young women freedom when the time comes to choose a career, with little knowledge of available possibilities.

What seems to be missing are good role models that could act as inspiration and source of information and guidance and offer a glimpse into the reality of being a female employed in the field of science and/or technology. Parents, teachers, and career guidance counselors all have a significant role in assisting or hindering the way young women choose their career paths and that choice begins early on from school, all the way through to higher education.

STEM-focused institutions and corporations will be invited to showcase their work, how their work is connected to SDGs, and further to encourage and motivate girls and female youth to choose and remain in science.

The voice of Youth, Girls in Science 4 SDGs International Platform, and our fellow blind and deaf scientists and experts will be present in every panel.

Provisional Agenda

8 February 2024

United Nations Headquarters, New York

10.00 – 18.00 (US-EST)

Four Selected Side Events

on Women Leadership in Different Fields Related to Sustainable Development

10.00 – 17.00 (US-EST)

Girls and Female Youth in Science

First EXPO on Transforming Science and Arts Education

9 February 2024

United Nations Headquarters, New York

10:00 – 10:30 (US-EST)

Opening Segment:

Opening Statements from Organizers and Sponsors.

11.00 – 13.00 (US-EST)

High-Level Panel I:

**Women in Science Leadership for Peace and Security
a New Era for Sustainability**

Humankind is facing global challenges, pressures on global commons and natural resources, the impact of emerging technologies, and not least the wars in different parts of the world that are placing people and the planet under stress and in great uncertainty. Women's important role in policy and decision-making is as yet not adequately reflected in political representation. Getting women in top leadership positions is critical, but it is also not enough. Traditional gender roles, conscious and unconscious biases, and discriminatory attitudes and norms continue to pose barriers to women's full and meaningful participation. World's societies will not enjoy peace for equitable inclusive socio-economic sustainable development if they do not benefit from women experts and professionals' leadership.

In view of the increasing complexity and interconnectedness of global challenges, it is essential to mobilize all available diplomacy tools to help achieve the 2030 Development Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Goals. In this regard, the Global Approach for peace and prosperity should focus more on women and science diplomacy. This High-Level Panel will discuss both at institutional level and with relevant stakeholders:

- Strategies and best practices for increasing women's meaningful political participation from around the world;
- Women in science added value in policy and decision-making;
- Women and Girls in Science and the UN Security Council Resolution 1325;
- The role women in science can play for the development of an International Science Diplomacy Framework and Agenda; and
- The inclusion of Women with Disabilities in National and International Affairs as a practical necessity.

13.00 – 14.45 (US-EST)

HIGH-LEVEL WORKING LUNCH

Women in Science Rising: Leadership in Business and Economics

Globally, women have become engines for economic growth. Achieving gender diversity in enterprises is of critical importance to improving business outcomes. However, women remain underrepresented in business, particularly at senior management levels. While much progress has been made, women remain underutilized despite representing a dynamic and capable pool of talent.

Women's entrepreneurship is both about women's position in society and the role of entrepreneurship in the same society. Therefore, women's entrepreneurship needs to be explored separately as an important untapped source of economic growth.

This high-level Panel will address the benefits of reforming policies to empower women in science in business and will assist in promoting awareness of the role of women in science entrepreneurs in the economy growth. It will further discuss:

- the importance of incorporating a women entrepreneurial dimension in considering all SMEs and growth policies (e.g. meeting women's financing needs at all stages of the business continuum; take-up of business development and support services; access to corporate, government and international markets; technology access and utilization; R&D and innovation; etc.); and
- the need for better qualitative information and quantitative data and statistics to profile women entrepreneurs (e.g., demographic information, barriers to start-up and growth).

15.00 – 16.30 (US-EST)

High-Level Panel 2:
Women in Science Leadership in the United Nations

The sub-title of the 2030 Agenda is "Transforming our World". It is clearly indicated at the 2030 Agenda that "there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development". Indeed, fundamental transformations in the way the world lives, works, and does business are needed to: End poverty; to achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture; to Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all; to Ensure inclusive and quality education for all; for building the low carbon, climate resilient, green and inclusive economies and societies of the future; and to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

The Agenda 2030 challenges us in three major points:

- to transform for "people" and for "planet";
- to transform how we understand and how we strive for "prosperity"; and
- to travel a road to transformation based on peace, stability, inclusion, and partnerships.

This High-Level Panel will discuss the **Role of Women in Science in supporting the UN System to strengthen the Organization and help achieving the 2030 Development Agenda and its 17 Global Goals**. More specifically, it will focus on SDGs 16 and 17 and its nexus, namely: SDGs 1, 2, and 13:

- Advising for science-based solutions to end poverty and hunger.
- Highlighting green technology-based solutions for Climate Action.
- Highlight the role of women in science leadership in Diplomacy and International Affairs;

16:30 - 18:00 (USA-EST)

Closing Ceremony:
THINK SCIENCE ... THINK PEACE¹
Celebrating the 9th Anniversary of #February11 Global Movement

The Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT), co-organizing and co-sponsoring UN Member States, departments and agencies are celebrating the **9th anniversary** of the **#February11 Global Movement**.

¹ Quote for HRH Princess Dr. Nisreen El-Hashemite

Statements to be delivered by Heads of State or Government, and other dignitaries of the United Nations, and Inter-Governmental Organizations. Statements are expected to highlight the role of women leadership in peace, diplomacy, and development, and to ***acknowledge a woman in science and leader that inspired them, whether from history or modern world.***