International Day of Women and Girls in Science

"Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth"

Outcome document: February 11-12, 2019

We, Ministers and high representatives, having met at the United Nations Headquarters in New York,

1. *Welcome* the celebration of the 4th International Day of Women and Girls in Science and the partnership of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust with Member States, United Nations agencies, and other relevant organizations in supporting, promoting and empowering women and girls in science;

2. *Recall* the commitments made in the outcome document of the 3rd International Day of Women and Girls in Science, held at the United Nations Headquarters on 8-9 February 2018, titled "Equality and Parity in Science for Peace and Development";

3. *Welcome* the launching of the RASIT Girls in Science 4 SDGs International Platform to build tomorrow's society through innovation and by empowerment of girls in science;

4. *Highlight* the critical role of science, technology and innovation (STI) as important drivers of socio-economic development of the societies around the world, and the need to accelerate investment in these sectors and boost implementation of STI policies, roadmaps and action plans at national, regional and international levels; and that innovative financing mechanisms are needed to foster development of STI strategies to equip women and girls with adequate skills for tomorrow's labour market;

5. *Recognize* that innovation is a process which often involves change in organizations and institutions as well as technologies; driven not only by technological advances, but also by societal expectations, values and demands; and that making right use of the wide range of knowledge, capabilities, skills and experiences readily available in social sciences and humanities will enable innovation to become embedded in society and is necessary to realize sustainable development programs;

6. *Recognize* that fostering interdisciplinary training and research by integrating social sciences and humanities with the natural and applied sciences must begin with fitting approaches in education and training, with innovative curricula foster, a deepened understanding of the value of multi-disciplinary approaches, and how they relate to real world;

7. *Take into consideration* the UN Secretary-General's Strategy on New Technologies, supporting the use of new technologies to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and to facilitate their alignment with the values enshrined in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the norms and standards of international law, particularly in achieving gender equality in access to and use of new technologies and the elimination of gender segregation in education and workforce in STI;

8. *Stress* the role of men-support in the process of female empowerment, inter alia, through the HeForShe campaign and the "Y 4 X" initiative to support women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) both on educational and organizational level;

9. *Note* that while some progress has been achieved in promoting equality and parity in science, challenges in preventing the full integration of women in science in sustainable development still persist, and these challenges are related to policy-making, implementation instruments, financing, capacity strengthening, skills provision, R&D, gender equality, regional integration, among others;

10. *Note* that achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will require adequate investment, and policy and regulatory environments that support strong and well-connected global science and innovation systems, and which also enable creativity and innovation throughout the economy and society;

11. *Recognize* that changes in science and innovation systems, influenced by digitization and globalization, require that national and international policy agendas and instruments be updated to include investment in women and girls, including the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, in all fields of sciences, as well as prevention of technological discrimination;

12. *Recognize* that science is increasingly important to inform policies and decision making across a broad range of areas, from long-term environmental and public welfare issues to emergency disease outbreaks and natural disasters;

13. *Acknowledge* the importance to enhance multi-stakeholder approach that directly involves women actors in science, technology and innovation, from university associations to business representatives, while collaborating actively with relevant international and regional organizations;

14. *Confirm* that investment in women and girls in science is a process, not a project, by its nature and based on constant political will and support for women and girls in science, technology and innovation to foster sustainable economic growth, job creation and enhanced wellbeing;

15. *Urge* all governments to empower and invest in girls' STEM education from the early stages – including primary education onwards, since the decision to enter STEM program at university level is strongly influenced by the previous experiences and exposure to science, and that the role of female socialization process and stereotyping STEM as "masculine" subject should also be address and dealt with – with special attention given to the high-school level of education, when high percentage of girls' loose interest in STEM;

16. *Urge* all governments, the private sector and other stakeholders to accelerate the inclusion of women and girls in science and the increase in the number of women taking up STEM courses in university level by making more grants and scholarships available and accessible to women and by providing less stringent repayment terms and conditions for loans taken by women who pursue degrees in STEM;

17. *Urge* all governments to empower women at higher education institutions and public research organizations as essential elements of the STI ecosystems in order to build a solid and relevant human capital base and enhance R&D; enhance the relevance of research and innovation policies, by designing and adopting policies that promote gender equality in education in general and higher education in STEM fields in particular, including aspects related to girls' participation, science teacher training and continuous professional development, academic and administrative staffing and R&D; engaging women in science experts in national, regional and international dialogue involving all innovation system actors, civil society included, on the relationship between innovation and research, economic growth and society at large, and exploring the move from STI policy to policy for equality and parity in science technology and innovation;

18. In this regard, *request* the United Nations, UN departments, agencies and commissions to strengthen their collaboration to foster STI policies and programs with a gender lens;

19. *Commit to* building skills, infrastructure and promising sectors, by supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in innovative fields by encouraging the governments and the private sector to develop platforms and incubators for start-ups for women in science entrepreneurs, by building capacities in applied/natural science, automation and telecommunications, environmental sciences and social sciences, that can find applications with social media, Big Data, drone technology, and cybersecurity, etc.;

20. *Urge* all governments to consider sustainable financing for women and girls in science, by investing in women in science research on global challenges, and SDGs related fields, including inclusive and grassroots innovation; including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation in order to support women in science in innovation and research capacity building, with greater focus on collaboration with regional development banks and other financial institutions for mutual benefits of countries and partners;

21. *Recognize* that strengthening regional and international cooperation and integration**,** by promoting international, regional, South-South and triangular cooperation through knowledge sharing mechanisms, students and researchers' mobility programs, joint R&D activities, establishment of centres of excellence, and innovation hubs and promote integration into global research and innovation networks in a manner which fosters sharing and optimization of resources;

22. *Stress* that countries need policies that promote the excellence and relevance of women in science in sustainable development programs and encourage stronger links between academia, industry and society in order to strengthen the impact of women in science and technology, through adequate long-term investment in basic and applied research; creating a market-friendly, competitive environment for private sector to invest in women in science research and innovation, and for entrepreneurship to flourish; investing in reforming education and training systems to encourage talent and supply the workforce with the broad range of skilled women and girls required for generating and using innovations; creating an innovative mechanism for monitoring and evaluation, making full use of opportunities raised by information technology and new sources of data, which is a main source for subsequent policy development; developing policies that support the positive transformational impact of digital technologies on research and innovation;

23. *Encourage* the forthcoming conferences of the United Nations as well as other global forums and efforts for sustainability, to take into consideration the critical roles of women in science, technology and innovation in explaining and responding to world's challenges;

24. *Urge* all governments to invest in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth in National, Regional and International Development Agendas, including in new research infrastructures and centres of excellence to foster research and development; encourage the emergence and development of private sector R&D initiatives in order to widen the scope of innovation which is essential to boost industrialization, women in science employment and wealth creation; increase efforts in leveraging financing from private sector and other non-traditional sources to complement public funding in order to support investment in women and girls in science and innovation.

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Outcome document: 11- 12 February 2019

Member State / Organization	Signature
African Union	
Albania	
Andorra	
Argentina	
Australia	
Bangladesh	
Cabo Verde	
Colombia	
Cyprus	
Ecuador	
Estonia	
Hungary	

Ireland	
Kenya	
Lebanon	
Malta	
Montenegro	
Poland	
Portugal	
San Marino	
Slovak Republic	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	
United Kingdom	
Uruguay	

PANAMA	Milagros Mainieri
Philippines	KIRA AZUCENA . C.D.A.
SWITZERLAND	
RWANDA	
Rol. COSTA RICA	
SLOVENIA	
DJIBOUTI	
TURKEY	
SPAIN	
PERU	
Azerbaijan	
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FINLAND	
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