

25 January 2021

## **Excellency**

On behalf of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT), and Permanent Missions of Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Hungary, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia -to the United Nations, it is an honour to invite you to participate at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly.

The Event is also co-sponsored by Permanent Missions of Costa Rica, Montenegro and San Marino -to the United Nations, as well as the African Union, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the World Intellectuals Property Organization (WIPO), and will be held at the United Nations HQ virtually on 11 February 2021.

From the outcome declaration at the High-Level World Women's Health and Development Forum in 2015, to the International Day of Women and Girls in Science proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/212, the journey of RASIT continues with Member States, Inter-Governmental Organizations and the United Nations and its entities, to help achieving Equality in Science, Technology and Innovation for Socio-Economic Sustainable Development.

With great momentum and interest to accelerate progress in achieving the 2030 Development Agenda and its 17 Global Goals, the 6<sup>th</sup> International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly theme will be *Beyond the Borders: Equality in Science for Society*, with a special focus on the value of the social aspects and cultural dimensions in Science, Technology and Innovation to enhance sustainable development programs.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly will feature for the first time *Our Blind Fellow Scientists*, through a Highlevel panel entitled *Writing Science in Braille*. The panel aims to raise the international community's attention towards the rights of blind and visually impaired individuals - particularly women and girls in science, education and literacy, equal opportunities, as well as their inclusion in sustainable development programs as agents of change, not only its beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly will promote a holistic approach to discuss "*How to Drive Innovative Economy in the Post-COVID Era*". The five thematic focus areas of the 2021 Assembly highlight:

- Aligning Science with the Innovation Economy
- Water Economics for Inclusive Innovative Green Growth

- Women in Science for the Oceans: Celebrating the beginning of the Oceans Decade
- Creativity of Science for Reviving Economy: Celebrating the International Year for Creative Economy
- Women in Science and Diplomacy: Celebrating the International Year of Peace & Trust.

True to our commitment of promoting and facilitating equality in Science, Technology and Innovation for socio-economic sustainable development, therefore, we are looking forward to welcoming Your Excellency's participation.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Cemile Cengiz (cemile.cengiz@rasit.org) or the Organizing Committee on (idwgis2021@womeninscienceday.org).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite Executive Director, Royal Academy of Science International Trust Ambassador Walton Alfonso Webson Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda Ambassador Rabab Fatima Permanent Representative of Bangladesh

Redial fatin

Mr. Attila Hidegh Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary

Ambassador Martin Kimani Permanent Representative of Kenya

Ambassador Vanessa Frazier Permanent Representative of Malta

Ambassador Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramirez

Permanent Representative of Mexico

Ambassador Joanna Wronecka Permanent Representative of Poland

Janua Woeneche

Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes Permanent Representative of Portugal

Ambassador Michal Mlynár Permanent Representative of Slovakia Ambassador Darja Bavdaž Kuret Permanent Representative of Slovenia