

2026 Global Conference of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development

15 – 17 July 2026

UNESCO Headquarters Paris

DAY I – 15 July 2026 | VISION & HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 08:30 | REGISTRATION |
| 10:00 | INTRODUCTORY AUDIOVISUAL SEQUENCE |
| 10:05 | OPENING CEREMONY
Ms Isabelle KUMAR, Master of Ceremonies |
| 10:10 | HIGH-LEVEL OPENING ADDRESSES
H.E. Mr Khaled El-Enany, UNESCO Director-General |
| 10:20 | VIDEO MESSAGE
H.E Mr Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General |
| 10:25 | HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL STATEMENT
H.E Dr Karin Herrera, Vice President of Guatemala |
| 10:35 | HIGH-LEVEL SPEECH
H.E. Mr Nasser Bin Hamad Al Hinzab,
Chairperson of the UNESCO Executive Board, Ambassador,
Permanent Delegate of Qatar to UNESCO, |
| 10:40 | OPENING KEYNOTE
H.E. Prof. Mark Thomson, Director-General, CERN |
| 10:55 | ARTISTIC INTERLUDE
Malik Diaw Band |

11:00

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

Science for Sustainable Development - From Commitment to Implementation

This session will turn the opening message into concrete political commitments, focusing on strengthening science systems, funding, STEM education, open science, and evidence-based policymaking for sustainable development. It will also reaffirm political ownership of the National Focal Points Network and call for practical national and international follow-up on the Decade.

SET THE SCENE: H.E. Mrs Monique van Daalen, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to UNESCO, Co-Chair of the IDSSD Executive Committee

Moderator: Ms Isabelle Kumar, journalist

Ministers:

- **H.E. Mr Valéry Fils-Aimé**, Minister of the Environment, Haiti
- **H.E. Dr Hossein Simaee Sarraf**, Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran
- **H.E. Dr Armando Rodríguez Batista**, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment, Republic of Cuba
- **H.E Prof. Yodchanan Wongsawat**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand [online](#)

12:30

LUNCH

12:30

MEDIA BRIEFING

14:00

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY

Science Diplomacy in Action Governing Global Commons

This plenary will highlight how science diplomacy supports international cooperation on global commons (oceans, climate, biodiversity, glaciers, and emerging technologies) and connects the Science Decade with broader UN and global frameworks. It will feature a limited number of strong voices focused on practical cooperation and science governance, bringing together UNESCO, other UN actors, and cross-Decade perspectives.

Moderator: Dr Heïdi Sevestre, Glaciologist, Speaker, Author

Keynote: Mr Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Chairman, Arctic Circle; Former President of Iceland



Opening video by Mr Francisco Sagasti, Prof. Graduate School and UNESCO Chair on Knowledge and Innovation for Social Transformation, Universidad del Pacifico

Panelists:

- **Dr Lidia Brito**, Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations UNESCO and former Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences UNESCO
- **Ms Maria Fernanda Rollo**, Full Professor and Researcher at the History, Territories and Communities, NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Portugal
- **Prof. Marilynne Andersen**, Director general of the GESDA Foundation
- **Prof. Wei Zhang**, Director of the Utilization Development Center, Technology and Engineering Center for Space Utilization, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- **Mr Anil Mishra**, Chief of the Hydrological Systems, Climate Change and Adaptation Section, UNESCO
- **Dr Robert Blasiak**, Associate Professor, Stockholm Resilience Centre, UN Ocean Decade Advisory Board Member
- **Prof. Charles Spillane**, Chief Scientist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

TESTIMONIAL by **Dr Heidi Sevestre**, Glaciologist, Speaker, Author

15:30

ARTISTIC INTERLUDE

Bartu Elci-Ozsoy & SHARE ENSEMBLE

15:35

BREAK

16:00

PLENARY SESSION

From Diagnosis to Action - Prioritizing Scientific Frontiers

This session will identify the priority scientific gaps and system-level challenges under the Science Decade, where the world is still failing to mobilize science at the scale required by the SDGs, and the most urgent frontiers for collective action. It will also address emerging issues such as AI and frontier technologies, while focusing on how science can be organized, funded, and governed more effectively for sustainable development, concluding Day 1 with an analytical frame for Day 2.

Moderator: Prof. Gretchen Kalonji, Special Advisor to the International Research Center for Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)

Panelists:

- **Dr Magdalena Skipper**, Editor-in-Chief, Nature, Nature perspective on frontier science and public relevance

- **Mr Atish Dabholkar**, Director, ICTP, Basic sciences and international cooperation voice
- **Prof. Jose M. De Teresa**, President, European Physical Society, Academic and scientific-community voice
- **Prof. Ana María Cetto**, Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Science Diplomacy and Scientific Heritage, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico
- **Mr Jian Wang**, Director, Zhejiang Lab, UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, China [online](#)
- **Prof. Rolf-Dieter Heuer**, President of the Council of SESAME, Former Director General of CERN, Former President of the German Physical Society and Chair of the European Commission Group of Chief Scientific Advisors [online](#)
- **Prof. John Canavan**, UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement, University of Galway, Youth Participation and Citizen Engagement [online](#)

DAY II – 16 July 2026 | ACTION AND IMPACT

08:30

REGISTRATION

09:30

LANDMARK LAUNCH OF THE IDSSD GLOBAL REPORT

Presentation of the Global Report and its implications for action

Moderator: Ms Amal Kasry, Chief of Section of Basic Sciences, Engineering, Technology and Innovation, Division of Ethics, Research, and Technology, Sciences Sector UNESCO

Presentation of the Global report of IDSSD: Mr HU Shaofeng, Director, Division of Basic Sciences, Engineering, Technology and Innovation, Division of Ethics, Research, and Technology, Sciences Sector UNESCO

Panelists:

- **Mr HU Shaofeng**, Director, Division of Basic Sciences, Engineering, Technology and Innovation, Division of Ethics, Research, and Technology, Sciences Sector UNESCO
- **Mr Michel Spiro**, President of the Earth-Humanity Coalition and Past President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)
- **Mr Dragan Đuričin**, Fellow, World Academy of Art and Science
- **Prof. Dr. Indrani Karunasagar**, Director, Projects and Technology Enabling Centre, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Nitte University
- **Dr Seng Chuan Tan**, President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)

- **Ms Vanessa Mc Bride**, Science Director, Acting Head of the Centre for Science Futures of the International Science Council
- **Ms Sabine Becker-Thierry**, Director, Paris Office, United Nations University
- **Mr Huadong Guo**, Director of CBAS and Leader of IDSSD DSP Programme

Q&A – 10'

11:00

TRANSLATING EVIDENCE INTO PRIORITIES

Bridges evidence to action, focusing on priorities and implementation

This session will bridge evidence and action by identifying priority areas where efforts under the Decade can be both impactful and feasible. Building on the findings of the Global Report, it will focus on strengthening capacities, enhancing inclusion, improving how scientific knowledge is generated, shared, and used in decision-making, and supporting implementation across regions.

Moderator: Professor Marcelo Knobel, Executive Director, TWAS

Panelists:

- **Dr Nomalungelo Gina**, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa
- **Dr Ghaith Fariz**, Advisor/International Expert and Strategic Planner-Sustainable Development and Science Diplomacy
- **Prof. Shakhlo Turdikulova**, Vice President of the Academy of Sciences
- **Dr Flavia Schlegel**, Science Governance Partnership/Independent Consultancy
- **Dr Paulína Koršňáková**, Senior Research and Liaison Advisor, IEA (TIMSS)

12:30

LUNCH

14:00

THEMATIC EVENTS

14:00

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IDSSD

Interactive Fireside Dialogue

This working session will focus on translating global commitments into national implementation. It will bring together National Representative to discuss coordination, monitoring, reporting, stakeholder engagement, and support needs. The discussion will also explore how national systems can better connect global agendas with local realities and how focal points can serve as practical anchors for implementation. The session will remain operational rather than

ceremonial, providing space for a geographically balanced exchange and identifying immediate follow-up actions for the next phase of implementation.

Moderator: Ms Amal Kasry, Chief of Section of Basic Sciences, Engineering, Technology and Innovation, Division of Ethics, Research, and Technology, Sciences Sector UNESCO

Opening discussion: Mr HU Shaofeng, Director, Division of Basic Sciences, Engineering, Technology and Innovation, Division of Ethics, Research, and Technology, Sciences Sector UNESCO

With the National Focal Points Network

15:30 BREAK

16:00 WAY FORWARD

This final plenary will consolidate the main messages of the Conference and outline practical directions for the next phase of implementation of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD). It will highlight how Member States, scientific institutions, the United Nations system, academia, philanthropy, and responsible private-sector actors can work together to strengthen science for sustainable development, through partnerships, long-term investment, and international cooperation.

Moderator: Ms Joanna Wisniewska, Head of Global Engagement GESDA

Panelists :

- **Mr Abou Amani**, Assistant Director-General for Sciences, ai, UNESCO
- **Prof. Rajaa Cherkaoui El Moursli**, Resident Member of the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Nuclear Physicist and Professor, Mohammed V University in Rabat.
- **Mr Da Si**, Senior Vice President & Chief Branding Officer, BOE Technology Group
- **Mr Alexander Gilgenberg**, CEO PhosAgro
- **Dr Nada Al Neafa**, CEO, Abdullah Al Fozan Foundation for Education / UNESCO–Al Fozan International Prize for Young Scientists in STEM
- **Ms Guan Xiangjun**, Interim Executive General Manager, Commercial and Development of MMG

DAY III – 17 July 2026 | CLOSING

09:30

THEMATIC EVENTS

17:30

CLOSING CEREMONY

Acknowledges contributions and sets forward direction

Ms Lora Gailly, Master of Ceremonies

UNESCO CLOSING ADDRESS

Mr Abou Amani, Assistant Director-General for Sciences, ai, UNESCO

MEMBER STATE CLOSING ADDRESS

H.E. Dr Karin Herrera, Vice President of Guatemala

18:00

CLOSING MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Mr Bartu ELCI-OZSOY, violinist, conductor, composer and European Climate Pact Ambassador

