



Mission of Portugal to the United Nations



Royal Academy of Science International Trust

**HIGH-LEVEL PANEL HOSTED BY
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
and
THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL TRUST
ON THE LAUNCHING OF
The Girls in Science 4 SDGs International Platform**

**Thursday 6 December 2018
15.00 - 17.00 ; Conference Room 11
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Concept Note:

Since 2016, the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (R.A.S.I.T) organized the commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science in close collaboration and partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the Government of Malta as well as UN agencies and Member States. The participation of the highest levels of the UN system agencies and programmes, Inter-governmental Organizations and Member States demonstrates the continuing resolve and commitment of international community to eliminate gender inequality in science, employment, opportunities and education.

The third commemoration held on 8-9 February 2018 in New York UNHQ featured the first “Girls in Science for Sustainable Development” panel. The Panel introduced Girls in Science from different member states who designed, chaired, moderated, and generated their outcome document.

The Outcome Document, presented by Girls in Science and approved by acclamation from participants, indicated:

“To Our Future Colleagues: at our Panel, we talked about the Problems and we found Solutions. We have made the beginning: the Solutions which will be started by you and finished by us.

With only 12 years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the participants of the Girls in Science Panel call upon the United Nations and its Member States to continue and increase their support for girls’ leadership and journey in science to achieve sustainable development.”

The Girls in Science participants clearly called for:

“Support online distance learning, including social media, apps, and other technological advances, and synchronized learning for those in rural areas and developing countries to advance learning.

Prioritizing marginalized voices requires the creation of space to ensure full and meaningful participation of girls in all their diversities, especially those in rural areas, refugees, and those from developing countries.”

Based on the contributions of the Girls in Science, the Royal Academy of Science International Trust and the Mission of Portugal to the United Nations, are launching **“Girls in Science 4 SDGs International Platform”**. This new initiative seeks to give Girls in Science the opportunity to shape their own future and the future of their communities, and to be the lead innovators of tomorrow – TODAY.

The Platform, designed and coded by Girls in Science, aims to:

- ◆ Bring the UN closer to them and strengthen their sense of ownership and support for the UN;
- ◆ Give every Girl in Science the opportunity to share her opinions about how to achieve the SDGs;
- ◆ Encourage critical thinking from a younger age; and
- ◆ Widen the horizons of science and opportunities in the eyes of girls

Program Agenda:

Opening Remarks:

H.E. Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

HRH Princess Dr. Nisreen El-Hashemite, Executive Director - Royal Academy of Science International Trust

Girls in Science 4 SDGs represented by: Miss Huaxuan Chen (Canada), Miss Sthuthi Satish (India), Miss Rebecca Jekogian (USA), and Miss Talya Ozdemir (Turkey).

Guest Speakers:

H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly (tbc)

H.E. Ms. Amina Mohammad, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (tbc)

Mr. Maher Nasser, Director of Outreach, UN DPI

Mr. Navid Hanif, Director of Financing for Sustainable Development Office

Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, UN DESA (tbc)

Dr. Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief, UNCTAD New York Office of the Secretary General

Ms. Ursula Wynhoven, ITU Representative to the United Nations New York