



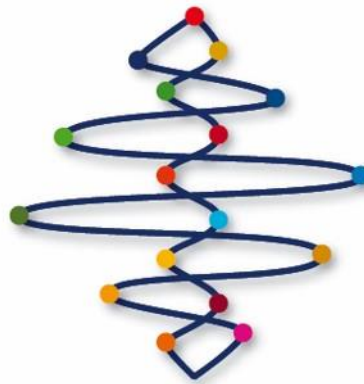
# **Beyond Language Boundaries: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Bringing Everyone Forward**

*9 September 2022*

*10.00 – 18.00 (US-EST)*

*United Nations Headquarters, in a virtual format*

## **Concept Note and Provisional Agenda**



**#BringingEveryoneForward | #SDG4 | #SDG6 | SDG14 | #SDG17 |  
#TransformingEducation | #Science&Society | #SpanishLanguage | # Multilingualism  
@RASITHQ | @WomenScienceDay | Girls4SDGs**

## Concept Note

### Background:

#### Science and Society for Sustainable Development World Initiative

Science and Society for Sustainable Development, a world initiative by the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT), is a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for identifying conditions and tools to put Science, Technology, and Innovation at the heart of sustainable development programs, international relations, and public and private sectors strategies.

Science, Innovation, Technology and Education (SITE) are the core of RASIT's contribution to sustainable and equitable development. Already in 1989 RASIT's founder the late HRH Prince Mohammad bin King Faisal (I) of Iraq El-Hashemite established the "Science and Society for Social and Economic Development" program as a "Think Tank" to bridge the two cultures of the sciences and the humanities and its applications in a systematic, critical way. The Program aims to assist policymakers – at all levels whether in public or private sectors - to evolving a more mature relationship between science, policy, and society for strategies that they can commit to for the future.

Underscoring the agreement of the UN Member States on the very important role of STI in furthering the sustainable development agenda, and following the vision of RASIT's founder HRH Prince Mohammad bin King Faisal (I) of Iraq El-Hashemite, on the Program is has added to its mandate the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its 17 global goals, and instantly is known as **Science and Society for Sustainable Development World Initiative** (*herein after known as the Initiative*).

The Initiative comprises a series of high-level panels in different languages aims to bring the wealth of talent and knowledge currently buried due to language barriers, which once released, boost the advancement of education and science and its application to solving global challenges.

### Introduction:

**“All human rights issues have sustainable development dimensions...  
To achieve sustainable development, we need to promote the excellence in education and science  
and its influential role in socio-economic policy and development”.**

*HRH Prince Mohammad bin King Faisal (I) of Iraq El-Hashemite  
The Founder, Royal Academy of Science International Trust  
17 April 1968*

The Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) are well articulated themes which consists of universally identified challenges that militate against the holistic developmental framework of nations.

**SDG4 target 7** indicates the need to enhance methods of acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education. Furthermore, **SDG17** - that connects all SDGs through partnerships – **target 6** signifies the importance to enhance international cooperation on the access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing, including

through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism; and its **target 16** clearly points on the significance of sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and resources to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Science and Education are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. However, language barriers hamper effective cooperation in implementing, and evaluating developmental goals. The voice of non-English speaking youth, experts and professionals is insufficiently in the international community.

**SDG10** – which aims to reduce inequality between countries and within a country – targets mainly financing, economic and infrastructure issues; the social aspects and cultural dimensions of science, technology and innovation are missing from the targets of SDG10.

Language barriers that exist in science, innovation, and education, and its outcome for sustainable development, cause inequality between countries, particularly for under-represented communities, making non-English-language knowledge inaccessible, and impeding the uptake of science-based solution for sustainable development programs by decision-makers and the International Community.

It is important to note that **over a third** of new science manuscripts published **annually** are in **non-English languages**, despite assumption of English as scientific ‘lingua franca’. Important scientific innovations and development that could enrich sustainable development programs are missed at international level. Thus, language barriers continue to impede the global compilation and application of scientific advancement for sustainable development.

### **Beyond Language Boundaries: Bringing Everyone Forward**

With great momentum and interest in the role of science education can play to accelerate the socio-economic sustainable development, RASIT’s Science and Society for Sustainable Development World Initiative will hold the first high-level Forum in the **Spanish Language**, one of the most spoken languages by the number of countries, on the Margin of Transforming Education Summit and the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week. The Forum, to be held at the **United Nations Headquarter virtually**, seeks to bridge between the International Community and **Spanish-speaking** youth, experts, and professionals to link their knowledge and expertise and its applications in a systematic, critical way for the 2030 agenda and its 17 global goals.

The Forum further aims to consider **language balance – whether spoken language, Braille, or sign language** - in the International Community activities whether when inviting youth, expert, or a speaker, to ensure **everyone is given a similar and equal opportunities at the International Community**.

On **9<sup>th</sup> September 2022**, Spanish-speaking youth, experts, scientists, high-level government officials, representatives of international organizations and the private sector will meet at the **United Nations Headquarters virtually**, to discuss “**Leveraging interlinkages between SDGs 6 and 14 with other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**” and achieving its three pillars namely *economic prosperity, social justice, and environmental integrity*.

UN reports point out that billions of people around the world will be unable to access safely managed household drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services in 2030 unless progress rates quadruple. Rising demand, poor management, and failure to conserve water resources, compounded by climate change, represent key challenges, urgently requiring **a new sustainable holistic approach to support aligning strategies on water** with means of fostering an integrated vision of the water cycle.

The Inaugural Forum will debate on the elaboration of the collective vision and inputs from the **7<sup>th</sup> International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly**, the **2<sup>nd</sup> High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2022**, held in **Dushanbe**, and the **2<sup>nd</sup> UN Ocean Conference** and its **High-Level Symposium on Water** held in **Lisbon**, as a contribution for the 8<sup>th</sup> International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly, the 2023 UN Water Conference, and other UN Fora.

The participants of the Inaugural Forum would be engaged in the structural discussions based on the identified thematic areas and to address the following:

- Can multilingualism be a catalyst for stronger geopolitical understanding and collaboration for sustainable socio-economic development;
- Identify conditions and propose tools to bring everyone forward in the fields of science, technology, and innovation to the international community;
- Zoom in on science education and building capacity for sustainability to accelerate achieving the interlinkage of SDGs 6 and 14 with other goals;
- Recognize the interplay and interdependency between science, technology, and green economic growth;
- Promote impact investment in science- and green technology- based water solutions – the source of life of people and planet - for innovative economies sectors for sustainable development;
- Address the interlinkage between climate change and other drivers with the increased risks of water-related challenges and social development programs; and,
- Integrate social aspects and cultural dimensions into socio-economic development strategies and action plans, including management and sustainable solutions.

The Inaugural Forum will also showcase best practices, strategies, applied solutions, and experiences in addressing the SDGs 6 and 14 challenges and opportunities from the Spanish speaking parts of the world.

### ***Structure of the Event:***

The Forum is designed to provide a platform for dialogue and facilitate interaction with a broad range of stakeholders. The format will foster four main interactive conversations with distinguished representatives from governments, inter-governmental organization, the private sector, academia, our fellow blind and deaf scientists, and youth. The interactive conversations will take place in virtual format. The conversations build on the outcomes of previous HL events on Water Unites Us, notably, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> IDWGIS and the Cansu SITE session during the 2022 Women Water Forum.

## **Provisional Agenda**

**10:00 – 10:45 (US-EST)**

## **High-Level Opening Segment: Water Unites Us**

Statements to be delivered by Heads of State or Government, and other dignitaries of the United Nations. Statements are expected to highlight multilingualism, inclusion of non-English speaking professionals, and the role of Spanish-speaking experts, youth, and professionals in solving SDGs 6 and 14 related challenges including social sciences, private sector, diplomacy, and international arena, etc.

### **Moderators:**

**Ms. Victoria Ballesteros-Gonzalez**, *Founder and Coordinator of the Spanish Section, Girls in Science 4 SDGs International Platform*

### **Welcoming Remarks:**

**HRH Prince Professor Adnan El-Hashemite**, *Dean of Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT)*

### **Inauguration Statement:**

**H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid**, President of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations (tbc)

### **Opening Statements:**

**Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle**, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

**H.E. Flavio Salazar**, Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation, Chile

**S.E el Sr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, **Alto Representante de la Alianza de Civilizaciones** de las Naciones Unidas (por confirmar)

**Sr. Mario Cimoli**, Secretario Ejecutivo en funciones de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (por confirmar)

**High-level representatives of co-organizing and co-sponsoring Spanish-speaking Member States and United Nations**

## Conversation 1:

10:45 – 11:30 (US-EST)

### Bringing Everyone Forward for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development

We live on a diverse planet, and not all-important information can necessarily be sourced from a single language. Ignoring science from other languages, could bias findings in addition, the poor international visibility of non-English-language science is an enormous barrier to its use.

This Conversation brings together scientists, experts and youth from different disciplines, viewing language barriers challenges from their respective angles and defining synergies with the International Community for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Sustainable Development strategies and programs.

This conversation examines the issues of sustainable development from Spanish-speaking lens. ***The Conversation will explore:***

- Culture and relevant fields of social sciences into sustainable development strategies;
- Identify conditions and propose tools to bring everyone forward in the fields of science, technology, and innovation to the international community;
- Cultural dialogue to developing educational & capacity building methods; and
- Challenges and opportunities in international policy-making and strategies that takes into account all facets of cultural diversity and inclusion of disabled.

Statements from leading entities in the field will address the need or necessity of equity, diversity and inclusion to achieve sustainable socio-economic development that brings everyone forward.

Moderator:

**H.E. Ambassador Ms. Ana Jiménez de la Hoz**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations.

Opening Statement:

#### A conversation with distinguished representatives

- **Awilda Perez-Lane**, Psy.D., Associate Professor Psychology Department, Felician University
- **Dr. Jose D Fuentes, John T. Ryan, Jr.**, Faculty Fellow, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Penn State University
- **Dr. Patricia Brogna**, Profesora asociada C TC FCPyS, UNAM y profesora de Posgrado en la Unidad de Posgrado de la UNAM, Mexico.
- **Sra. Mariela Isabel Zelada Ochoa**, Directora Regional de la Red para la Lectoescritura Inicial de Centroamérica y el Caribe- RedLEI-, Guatemala
- **Pamela Molina**, Director Ejecutivo Asociacion Global de Sordos
- **Prof. Wanda Díaz-Merced**, a Puerto Rican Blind Professor of Astrophysics, Senior Scientist, European Gravitational Observatory in Pisa-Italy

#### Conversation 2:

11:30 – 13:00 (US-EST)

#### Preserving Life on Land By Protecting Water: The Science-Based Solutions

Water crises can shake societies, destroy livelihoods, damage habitat and of biodiversity, and threaten prosperity for decades. They can also be the spark that sets aflame a powderkeg of social and political issues, resulting in violent conflict. Peace is not just the absence of conflict. It is also the ability to handle potential conflict by peaceful means, such as effective risk-reduction strategies for water scarcity and crisis.

This Conversation will address the serious impact of water crises as a threat to human's life and world's stability. Scientists, government representatives, water experts, youth, and multiple stakeholders will discuss science-based solutions as the effective pathways of water diplomacy in the context of the longer-term impacts from climate change, growing populations, and continued digitalization and construction development.

This Conversation will focus on:

- How can science inform policy and practice?
- Building capacity in water sciences;
- Identification of conditions and proposal of tools to put Science, Technology, and Innovation at the heart of water diplomacy;
- Culture and relevant fields of social sciences into water strategies, including management and sustainable solutions;
- Cooperation between local knowledge holders & scientists in finding sustainable solutions to water-related problems;
- Cultural dialogue to developing educational & capacity building methods; and
- Science oriented solution for water that takes into account all facets of social aspects and cultural dimensions and diversity.

Moderator:

Opening Statement:

***A conversation with distinguished representatives:***

- **Dr. Silvia Rafaelli, Investigadora**, Instituto Nacional del Agua, Subgerencia Centro Regional Litoral, Santa Fe. Argentina
- **Dr. Ana María Castillo Clerici**, Agua Subterránea y Gestión Integrada – Universidad Nacional de Paraguay – Paraguay
- **Dr. María Claudia Segovia Salcedo**, *Departamento de Ciencias de la Vida/Life Sciences Department*  
Grupo de Investigación Biotecnología Celular y Molecular de Plantas (BIOCEMP) **Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas-ESPE**
- **Dr. Ingrid Y. Padilla**, **Special Advisor to the Chancellor** for Research, Innovation and Creative Endeavors, **Professor** of Civil Engineering & Surveying, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez

**Conversation 3:**

**13:00 – 14:30 (US-EST)**

**Life Below Water: The Blue Economy**



Understanding ‘life below water’ (SDG 14) and ‘life on land’ (SDG 15) are an integral part of socio-economic sustainable development. Life’s sustenance, no matter whether in water or on land, is shaped by principles of reciprocity, linkages, trust, cooperation, collaborations and sharing in ways that are both material and non-material in nature. Combining both life below water and life on land using an integrated scientific-social-ecological system perspective whereby sustainability of both rests in the idea that they are a highly interconnected system rather than disconnected chunks of resources.

The oceans are now positioned at the frontline of world’s economy and are used more intensively than ever before. Although oceans are holding great potential for boosting economic growth, employment as well as innovation, this is raising questions about its capacity to cope the over-exploitation, pollution, declining biodiversity, and climate change. Realizing the potential of the oceans and its role in many of the global challenges facing the planet in the years to come, will therefore demand responsible and sustainable approaches to its social and economic development.

Sustainably growing the blue economy requires participation by all ocean resource stakeholders, including women, youth, and indigenous communities, many of whom have cultural or livelihood-dependent relationships with local ecosystems.

This conversation presents a deep dive into the role of science, technology, and innovation topics in achieving SDG14, and answer the ultimate question: Why should we care?

This Conversation will focus on:

- Addressing these challenges and opportunities to the blue economy;
- Women and Oceans, From Science to Entrepreneurship: Empowering women through blue economy;
- Sustainable Use of the Oceans: The potential for Science and Technology Research;
- Ocean Scientific Discovery and Innovation for the life in Water and its impact on Land; and
- From the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Ocean Conference: What is next?

Moderator:

Opening Statement:

A conversation with distinguished representatives

- **Dr. Felipe Paredes Vargas**, Marine Protected Areas Coordinator, Ministry of the Environment. Chile, Vice Chair for the Marine Theme at the World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN
- **Dr. Patricia Castillo-Briceno**, Scientific researcher and Advisor, Research Professor of Physiology, ULEAM University
- Co-Director Equatorial Biome & Ocean Acidification – EBIOAC, Chair OWSD-Ecuador

- **Dr. Cecilia Chapa-Balcorta**, Profesora-Investigadora de la carrera de Oceanología en el campus Puerto Angel de la Universidad del Mar (UMAR) en Oaxaca, México

#### Conversation 4:

**14:30 – 16:00 (US-EST)**

#### **Impact Investment: Financing Science-Based Solutions Is The Sustainable Solutions**

From providing clean water, to leading the fight against climate change, to addressing critical social issues such as poverty, sustainable agriculture, affordable housing and healthcare, the world's greatest challenges are daunting. At the same time, overcoming them has never been more attainable. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda have created a roadmap to make and measure progress on today's most urgent environmental and social issues.

However, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires improving and better mobilizing financing channels for economic growth. The challenge with financing the SDGs is that most of the burdens falls on national governments.

Financing of the SDGs is very complicated. The challenges for financing are not a matter of the scarcity of resources but rather a maldistribution of resources. Collective action is required to meet the SDGs indicators by 2030. Specifically required is the mobilization of private capital which should benefit the world, especially developing countries. However, the successful implementation of the SDGs depends on the quality impact of financing as much as the quantity. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the international community to renew its approaches and standards for financing international development that can be used by recipients and providers.

This conversation will discuss:

- Providing new and original knowledge about Impact Investment and its role in economic growth;
- Proposing a new methodology and definition for the sustainable finance scope and Impact investment;
- Discovering new phenomena in sustainable finance;
- Financing Scientific Research in Spanish-Speaking Countries;
- Challenges that Institutional Investors face when financing science-based solutions for SDGs;
- How to address financing challenges for science-based water solutions for sustainable development?
- Merging sustainable innovative solutions to existing water and ocean projects and programs.
- Innovation or business as usual: how to strike the Balance?
- How Development Funds balance between innovative solutions and existing knowledge?

Moderator:

**Ms. Josefina Maestu**, Water Economics Expert, Water Advisor of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Spain

Opening Statement:

**Sr. Víctor Pochat**, Presidente, Instituto Argentino de Recursos Hídricos

A conversation with distinguished representatives

- **Dr. Belen Carrillo-Rivas**, Senior Vice President, Head of Regulatory Affairs · Imvax, Inc.
- **Mr. Francisco Benedito**, Chief Executive Officer – Climatetrade
- **Mr. Jose Maria Fernandez**, Altamar Capital Partners
- **Sra. Sandra Milena Agudelo González. Coordinadora ENECI Encuentro Nacional de Enseñanza de la Ciencia para la Inclusión**, Presidente Capítulo Estudiantil GOMa UD, Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Colombia
- **Dr. Aída Mencía-Ripley**, Vicerrectora | Vicerrectoría de Investigación e Innovación, Titular - Cátedra Unesco Estudios Interseccionales de Género en Educación y Psicología, Titular - Carrera Nacional de Investigadores en Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, Dominican Republic

**16:00 - 17:00 (USA-EST)**

**Closing Panel:**

**Multilingualism for Stronger Multilateralism: Bringing Everyone Forward for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development**

The Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT), co-organizing and co-sponsoring UN Member States, departments and agencies are celebrating the Spanish-Speaking Professionals, Experts and Youth through a high-level panel that will explore and discuss:

- Multilingualism and multilateralism as two-sides of the same coin;
- Can multilingualism be a catalyst for stronger geopolitical understanding and collaboration?
- How will leadership become more visible if diversity of languages is highlighted in the UN?

- What challenges are posed for creating a database of experts who can ensure gender and language balance on UN panels? And
- How to move from research to actualization?

Statements will promote the importance of bringing everyone forward to the International Arena to make the SDGs a reality by 2030 and beyond.

Moderator:

Statements and Remarks:

- **Sra. Sylvia Poll**, Jefe de la División de la Sociedad Digital, Oficina de Desarrollo de las Telecomunicaciones de la UIT (Video Message)
- **Dr. Melissa Cristina Márquez**, Science Communicator and Marine Biologist, Spain
- **Dr. Pablo Enrique Yanes**, CEPAL Unidad de desarrollo Economico y Humano
- **Sr. Josep Fèlix Bentz**, President, World Peace Forum, Fundación Fomento Europeo (European Promotion Foundation) and the Royal Circle of Arts of Barcelona.
- **Sr. H. Serhan Süzer**, Director Ejecutivo de EkoRE (Eko Energia Renovable Inc.); Ex-cónsul honorario de la República de Costa Rica en Turquía Enero 2008 Diciembre 2021 (Video Message)
- **Sra. Victoria Ballesteros-Gonzalez**, Fundadora y Coordinadora de la Sección en Español, Girls in Science 4 SDGs International Platform
- **Dra. Leticia Calderón Chelius**, Profesora/investigadora, Instituto Mora

Outcome and Closing Statements