

2025 International Day of Women and Girls in Science “Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science”

Tuesday, 11 February 2025, Room II, UNESCO Headquarters

Background

On 22 December 2015, the UN General Assembly established 11 February as the [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) (IDWGS). This Day unites the international community in emphasizing the need for gender equality in science to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each year since then, alongside events worldwide, the IDWGS has celebrated the remarkable contributions of women in science while raising awareness that science and gender equality must advance hand-in-hand to address the world's major challenges.

In 2025, the IDWGS will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

The theme of the 2025 IDWGS

Science in the 21st century is dynamic, collaborative and diverse, serving as a powerful tool for engaging with the world and tackling global challenges. Today, a background in science opens doors to a wide range of career opportunities that extend well beyond traditional laboratory professions. Moreover, the profiles of scientists are far more varied than the conventional stereotypes suggest. From a gender perspective, pioneers like Marie Curie have demonstrated that women can shape and lead scientific disciplines, but her legacy as one of the few widely recognized female figures in science highlights the urgent need for greater progress. Therefore, this important anniversary for the IDWGS aims to reflect the expansive reach of science and celebrate the contributions of women in science worldwide.

The 2025 IDWGS celebration at UNESCO Headquarters

To mark the IDWGS' 10th anniversary, a special hybrid event will take place on Tuesday, 11 February 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters under the theme: “*Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science*”. It will bring together Member States, early-career and accomplished scientists, stakeholders from the public and private sectors, UNESCO scientific networks and Chairs, journalists, as well as students.

Building on the [2024 UNESCO Call to Action “Closing the Gender Gap in Science”](#) and aligned with the [International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development \(2024 - 2033\)](#), speakers will explore two key aspects during this unique event:

1) *Unpacking STEM Careers: The Power of Diversity and Inclusion in Shaping the Future*

Speakers from diverse backgrounds will share their inspiring journeys in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), reflecting on the paths that led them to their current professional roles and the passion that drives them forward. The discussion will also highlight the critical importance of diverse perspectives, including those of women, in STEM fields, in line with the communication campaign “*Imagine a world with more women in science*”, launched for this special anniversary with the support of Canada's *International Development Research Centre* (IDRC). The roundtable will emphasize the many opportunities a STEM background can provide and show that every unique journey - while embracing one's identities - holds the keys to contribute to advancing science and building a more equitable world.

2) *Her Voice in Science: Inspiring Change in the Media*

The event will also delve into how women in science and the diversity of scientific career pathways can be more effectively represented across various forms of mass media, ranging from traditional press and broadcast media to digital and out-of-home media. Speakers will discuss how representation in the media can enhance public trust and understanding of science, while reshaping societal perceptions of gender roles within the field. Engaging with the audience, they will explore actionable next steps for building a more inclusive scientific community in the long term, where every voice is valued.

Documentary screening

Following the roundtables, the celebrations at UNESCO Headquarters will continue with the screening of the documentary “[*Women of Science: These women who change our lives*](#)” (“*Électrons Libres : Ces femmes de science qui changent nos vies*” in French), directed by Safia Kessas and produced by Iota Production, with the support of the *Radio Télévision Belge Francophone* (RTBF), the *European Broadcasting Union* (EBU), and the *Wallonia-Brussels Federation to UNESCO*. This documentary follows the journeys of six women scientists from across Europe, highlighting their remarkable contributions to the field and the challenges they have overcome along the way.

Expected Outcomes

Through the insights shared by panelists and their interactive engagement with the audience, the event aims to raise awareness about the critical role of women in scientific innovation and the need for inclusive media representation to challenge gender stereotypes in STEM careers. It will also provide a platform for stakeholders to take and support actionable steps in closing the gender gap in science, building on UNESCO's 2024 Call to Action.

Programme

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Opening remarks
2:30 – 3.45 p.m.	Roundtable 1: <i>Unpacking STEM Careers - The Power of Diversity and Inclusion in Shaping the Future</i>
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Coffee break
4:00 – 5:15 p.m.	Roundtable 2: <i>Her Voice in Science - Inspiring Change in the Media</i>
5:15 – 5:30 p.m.	Closing remarks
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Cocktail break
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Screening of the documentary <i>“Women of Science: These women who change our lives”</i> <i>Followed by a roundtable</i>