

To all Permanent Delegates
and Observers to UNESCO

cc: National Commissions to
UNESCO

**The Assistant Director-General
for Priority Africa and External Relations**

24 January 2025

Ref: SC/PBS/STIP/24/10428
Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, I am pleased to invite you to the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** (IDWGS), which will take place at UNESCO Headquarters (Room II) on Tuesday, 11 February 2025, from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm, followed by the screening of the documentary "[Women of Science](#)" at 6:30 pm.

The [IDWGS](#) 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, the IDWGS provides an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable contributions of women in science and raise awareness of the importance of advancing science and gender equality hand-in-hand to address the world's major challenges.

Aligned with the [International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development \(2024-2033\)](#) and building on the [2024 UNESCO Call to Action "Closing the Gender Gap in Science"](#), this year's celebration will focus on the theme: "*Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science*". This event will highlight the critical role women play in STEM fields, in connection with the communication campaign "*Imagine a world with more women in science*", launched for this special anniversary. Panelists will also discuss the need for inclusive media representation to challenge gender stereotypes in STEM careers.

The event will bring together Member States, accomplished and emerging scientists (including from the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Programme), stakeholders from the public and private sectors, UNESCO scientific networks and Chairs, journalists, as well as students.

The afternoon roundtables on this theme will be followed by the screening of the documentary "[Women of Science](#)", directed by Safia Kessas and produced by Iota Production, with the support of the *Wallonia-Brussels Federation to UNESCO* and the *Radio Télévision Belge Francophone* (RTBF).

The event will be a hybrid meeting. Should you wish to attend in person, please confirm your participation at <https://indico.un.org/event/1015641/>. To attend the event online and to share the invitation with stakeholders in the Member States, registration is required via the following Zoom link: https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qL9UB8lcQ-O1sFmc4fFEQg.

The concept note for the event is hereby attached and the programme will be available at <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/2025-international-day-women-and-girls-science> shortly.

For any further information, please contact the UNESCO *Women in Science* team at fwis@unesco.org.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Firmin Edouard Matoko