

2024 International Day of Women and Girls in Science “Closing the Gender Gap in Science: Accelerating Action”

Friday, 9 February 2024, 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., 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](#) through the adoption of resolution A/RES/70/212. 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, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, along with associated events worldwide, celebrates the remarkable contributions of women in science and raise awareness that science and gender equality must advance hand-in-hand to address the world’s major challenges.

Event for the 2024 International Day of Women and Girls in Science: “Closing the Gender Gap in Science: Accelerating Action”

Despite the progress made in recent decades, still today only one in three researchers globally is a woman. This persistent gender disparity is the result of the numerous barriers that female scientists continue to face – lack of role models and mentorship programmes, disparities in the quality and accessibility of science education, insufficient professional structures and inadequate workplace cultures, and the glass ceiling phenomenon, all of which can discourage girls from pursuing scientific careers and hinder the progress of women in the field.

On 9 February 2024, UNESCO, in collaboration with *L’Association fédérative nationale des étudiant.e.s universitaires scientifiques* (AFNEUS), will host a full-day event in celebration of the 2024 International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The event will bring together Member States, accomplished and emerging scientists (including the alumnae of the L’Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Programme), stakeholders from the public and private sectors, UNESCO scientific networks and Chairs, as well as students.

The event will build on the key findings and recommendations that emerged from the [UNESCO Global Forum “The Future for Women and Girls in Science”](#) held in June 2023 and the AFNEUS “Women in Science” Congress held in February 2022 . In particular, it will provide the multistakeholder platform:

- ✚ To unveil the UNESCO Call for Action “Closing the gender gap in science” which provides recommendations aimed at tackling the root causes of gender-based inequalities in science. The Call for Action has been developed based on the contributions from a multitude of stakeholders following the Global Forum “The Future for Women and Girls in Science”.
- ✚ To share valuable insights on initiatives, resources, and best practices to put the Call for Action in practice and to discuss ways and means to make significant progress in key action areas, namely: innovative education, empowering work environments, and role models/mentors.

Programme

- 9 a.m – 9:30 a.m.: Registration & arrival
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.: *Opening plenary session*
- 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Coffee break
- 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Roundtable 1 – UNESCO Campus
Fostering Girls' Interest in Science through Innovative Education in the Digital Age
- 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.: Lunch break
- 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.: Roundtable 2
Promoting Empowering Work Environments for Women in Science
- 4 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.: Coffee break
- 4:20 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Roundtable 3
Inspiring Women and Girls in Science through Role Models and Mentors