



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Building Bridges through Science Diplomacy: Accelerating progress toward sustainable development

Friday, 20 September, 16:45 – 18:00 EDT

Organized by: International Science Council, German Center for Research and Innovation New York, UN Department of Global Communications Academic Impact initiative, Global Young Academy, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, IMPACT Coalition Science and Policy Solutions for the Planet: United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, Igarapé Institute, Club of Rome, Council on Energy Environment and Water (CEEW), Stockholm Environment Institute (Nairobi)

Background on the event

Science, including both natural and social sciences, is an invaluable tool for enhancing evidence-informed decision-making and collective action, and is essential to accelerating progress on shared global challenges, including to advance human rights and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Science also has long been a global enterprise underpinned by universal principles and plays a valuable role in strengthening international relations in support of international peace and security. Cross-national scientific collaborations support track two diplomacy to help build relationships across borders, achieve common understanding around shared questions, and identify cooperative approaches to global challenges. Science in support of diplomacy and multilateral decision-making is all the more urgent in order to catalyze effective, accelerated, and sustained action on the 2030 Agenda during this time of rapid change, instability, and polycrisis. This side event therefore highlighted and facilitated productive, action-oriented exchange on the vital role of science diplomacy for effective multilateral action. Insights were provided from Member States, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental

organizations who are experienced or emerging leaders in science diplomacy, including via concrete case studies from diverse geographical perspectives.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The role and potential of science in supporting international relations, catalyzing accelerated progress toward the SDGs, and facilitating solutions to interconnected problems that transcend national boundaries.
- New developments in science diplomacy, including challenges and opportunities for effective implementation and outcomes related to geopolitics, technology, and more.
- Options available for strengthening the relationship between science and diplomacy at national, regional, and global scales.
- The importance of diverse leadership, voices, and knowledge systems to enhance science diplomacy, including greater participation of scientists and decision-makers from the Global South, women, Indigenous peoples, and community leaders.
- Gaps, priorities, best practices, and actionable strategies that can be engaged to advance the SDGs through cross-border cooperation and partnerships.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Scientists, decision-makers, and other stakeholders should call for greater momentum, investment, and concrete action to center science and knowledge in multilateral processes in support of evidence-informed decision making.
- Member States and other funders should invest in international scientific collaborations and partnerships, supporting the flow of scientists, knowledge, and data across borders.
- Decision-makers and scientists should promote greater representation and inclusion of women, Indigenous peoples, and other underrepresented voices in science diplomacy.
- Decision-makers should establish and enhance multistakeholder forums and interfacing mechanisms to bring together scientists, policy-makers, Indigenous communities, local leaders, businesses, and the public to advance partnerships and knowledge sharing.
- All actors should work to strengthen trust in science through programs that broaden access to science, facilitate international partnerships, counter mis- and disinformation, and effectively communicate science to public and policy-making communities.

Webpage to find more information: <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/action-days-side-event>