

Fostering Science for All: International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033)

World Science Day for Peace and Development

Why Science Matters - Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures ***Ask the experts, Online Session***

12 November 2024, 14:00-15:30 (Paris time)

Background

World Science Day for Peace and Development, celebrated annually on the 10th November, highlights the significant role of science in society and in our daily lives. This year the theme for the event that will be organised at UNESCO is: *“Why Science Matters - Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures”*

In August 2023, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed the period 2024-2033 as the [International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development](#). This marks an important step in global efforts to harness scientific knowledge for a sustainable future. Led by UNESCO, this Decade aims to mobilise a wide range of scientific disciplines, including basic and applied sciences, social and human sciences, as well as interdisciplinary and emerging fields, to contribute to transformative change in societies, economies, and the environment. By promoting scientific literacy and encouraging collaboration among governments, UN agencies, the private sector and civil society, the Decade seeks to enhance science’s role in pursuing sustainable development goals and working towards a safer, more prosperous future for all.

In this context, this event organised around the occasion of the 2024 World Science Day for Peace and Development will be held under the aegis of the Decade. It will present an opportunity to engage a wide-ranging audience, with a focus on young people (including through the UNESCO Youth Forum and Science Youth Network) and non-scientific participants in discovering and exploring the role of science in our rapidly-changing digitalised world. It will bring together young people who will be asking questions to distinguished scientists about the ways in which science affects our daily lives and contributes to finding solutions to the most pressing challenges that the world is facing from local to global levels.

Format

The event will take place in an online format, with remote participation via the Zoom platform. Discussions will be held in English and French (with simultaneous interpretation).

Agenda

14:00 – 14:10	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p><i>Shaofeng Hu, Director of the Division for Policy and Basic Sciences, UNESCO</i></p>
14:10 – 14:50	<p>Why Science Matters - Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures</p> <p><i>Dynamic interactive session in which prominent scientists are interviewed and quizzed by a panel of young people</i></p> <p>Scientists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nada Jabado, Canada • tbc <p>Youth Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awa Bousso Drame, the Global Youth Community, Senegal and Cape Verde • Michel Frem, UNESCO Groundwater Youth Network, Lebanon • Malu Bustamante Junco Mendonça, Brazil
14:50 – 15:10	<p>Engaging with the Decade: What can you do? - Opportunities for Involvement</p> <p><i>Amal Kasry, Chief, Section for Basic Sciences, Research, Innovation and Engineering, UNESCO Natural Science Sector</i></p>
15:20 – 15:30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p><i>Gabriela Ramos, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences</i></p>