



Embassy of Italy
Washington



In the frame of the 2024 Science Summit at UNGA79

Woman in Science Diplomacy Association (WiSDA) and National Council of
University Research Administrators (NCURA)

Invite you to the workshop:

How Science and Innovation accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

September 23rd, 2024

Italian Cultural Institute of New York (686 Park Ave, New York, NY 10065)

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Background

The Science Summit during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is a premier global event that unites thought leaders, scientists, policymakers, and innovators to address the most pressing scientific and technological challenges of our time.

The Science Summit serves as a dynamic platform for showcasing cutting-edge research, sharing knowledge, and fostering inclusive international collaboration.

Participants engage in sessions, plenaries, and workshops that cover a broad spectrum of topics aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Summit of the Future.

Key focus areas include climate action, One Health, biodiversity, food systems, artificial intelligence, science philanthropy, quality education, affordable and clean energy, indigenous knowledge, and more. This year, the Summit will place a special emphasis on the Africa Science Leadership Coalition, which was launched at the UN Civil Society Conference on May 9, 2024, to promote African leadership in science policy decision-making.

The Science Summit aims to bridge the gap between science and policy, ensuring that scientific insights and advancements inform the creation and implementation of effective, sustainable, and inclusive global policies. Through dynamic discussions and networking opportunities, the Summit facilitates the exchange of ideas and the development of actionable strategies to address global challenges, thereby driving progress toward achieving the SDGs. It also positions science at the heart of the Summit of the Future process, framing discussions on how science will drive the post-SDG agenda.

The 2024 Science Summit is particularly significant as it coincides with the UN Summit of the Future, focusing on envisioning and planning for the post-SDG era. As the target date for the SDGs approaches, the Science Summit plays a crucial role in evaluating progress, identifying gaps, and exploring innovative solutions to ensure sustained advancement beyond 2030.

By bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise, the Science Summit at UNGA79 not only underscores the critical role of science in sustainable development but also helps shape the future global agenda. It aspires to drive progress towards a more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future for all, in alignment with the ongoing efforts of the UN Summit of the Future and the evolving post-SDG framework.

Contents

Session I: Women in Science diplomacy and policy making: perspective from science diplomacy practitioners

WiSDA was founded with the mission to foster global collaboration through science diplomacy, promoting dialogue and partnerships across borders to address shared scientific challenges. Science diplomacy practitioners, particularly science counsellors, play a pivotal role in advancing science by facilitating international research collaborations, advising governments on science and technology policy, and representing their countries' scientific interests abroad. Countries should invest in

science diplomacy as it strengthens their global influence, fosters innovation, and builds collaborative networks that drive scientific progress. WiSDA provides a platform to support emerging and low-to middle-income countries (LMICs) in establishing international collaborations, ensuring inclusivity in global scientific endeavors.

Session II: Health and Ocean a fundamental but unresolved paradigm requiring urgent actions:

The session explores the essential and intricate relationships between human health and oceans, presenting innovative research approaches and advocating for collaborative, health-driven actions to address this unresolved paradigm.

A novel model for systemic, long-standing, multisectoral, and interdisciplinary research is introduced through the "Sea Care Project," coordinated by the National Institute of Health in collaboration with the Italian Navy. This project mobilizes multiple sectors around Planetary Health and One Water approaches to address human-induced persistent chemical contamination and microbiological changes in marine ecosystems. Results from the first year are presented to raise intriguing concerns related to health perspectives.

Current national monitoring systems encompass virtually all environmental compartments, including soil, air, wastewater, inland waters, drinking water, bathing water, coastal waters, items, chemicals, and food. Despite the growing recognition that environmental health impacts human health, the medical and public health communities still tend to allocate inadequate attention to the health of seas and oceans – historical repositories of pollution from human civilization and main player in climate changes and biodiversity. It is time for the scientific community to advocate for an international legislative framework for the routine monitoring of the high seas, with legally binding national commitments and an interdisciplinary approach.

Session III: Science Diplomacy - a vehicle to engage multi sectors for socio-economic development

Science diplomacy should involve a broad range of stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, diplomats, administrators, and industry leaders, to effectively address global scientific challenges. Higher Education Institutions play a crucial role in advancing science diplomacy by fostering research, education, and innovation while serving as hubs for international collaboration and knowledge exchange. Building a global community that includes these diverse stakeholders is

essential to achieve the shared goal of ensuring that science benefits all, promoting inclusivity, equity, and global cooperation in scientific advancements.

Session IV:

As a community, we can support emerging countries in their science diplomacy efforts by providing mentorship, resources, and platforms that empower their scientific communities, with a special focus on encouraging and supporting women in science diplomacy. Engaging with a diverse range of stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, academic institutions, and private sector partners, is key to ensuring that science diplomacy leads to meaningful collaborations. By fostering inclusive networks and offering tailored support, we can help translate diplomatic initiatives into tangible, impactful scientific partnerships.

Program

Monday, September 23rd	
11.00 am – 11.10 am	<div>Opening Remarks</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● Declan Kirrane Founder and Managing Director of ISC Intelligence in Science● Mireille Guyader Science Counselor Embassy of France in Washington and co-founder of WiSDA● Fabio Finotti Director of the Italian Cultural Institute of New York</div>
Session I	

11.10 am – 12.00 pm	<p>Panel discussion: Women in Science diplomacy and policy making: perspective from science diplomacy practitioners</p> <p>Moderator: Claire Chen, Senior Executive NCURA</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peggy Oti-Boateng, Executive Director of the African Academy of Sciences (virtual) ● Evelina Santa Kahle, Science Counselor Embassy of Germany in Washington and co-founder of WiSDA ● Ona Ambrozaite, Johns Hopkins Science Diplomacy Hub Co-Director ● Sarah Scharf, NIH's International Fogarty Center ● Petri Koikkalainen, Science Counselor Embassy of Finland in Washington
Session II	
12.00 pm – 12.10 pm	<p>Keynote speech: One water for planetary health: vision and actions</p> <p>Andrea Piccioli, Director General, National Institute of Health, Italy</p>
12.10 pm – 12.40 pm	<p>Panel discussion: Health and Ocean a fundamental but unresolved paradigm requiring urgent actions</p> <p>Moderator: Giusi Condorelli, Science Attaché for Health Embassy of Italy in Washington</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Luca Lucentini, Director of National center Water Safety, National Institute of Health, Italy ● Carlo Villanacci, Data Protection Officer (RPD), National Institute of Health, Italy ● Pamela Mancini Researcher, National Center Water Safety, National Institute of Health, Italy
12.40 pm – 13.30 pm	Networking lunch
Session III	

13.30 pm – 14.20 pm	<p>Panel discussion: Science Diplomacy- a vehicle to engage multi sectors for socio-economic development</p> <p>Moderator: Ona Ambrozaite, Johns Hopkins Science Diplomacy Hub Co-Director</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kerstin Hildebrandt, Children’s National Research Institute, Children’s National Hospital ● Jesse Ausubel, Director, Program for the Human Environment, The Rockefeller University ● Nina Gray, Associate Vice provost for research Planning and Analysis, NYU
Session IV	
14.20 pm – 15.00 pm	<p>Facilitated Discussion with Audience: how science should be a more prominent topic for next SDGs and how countries can work together to promote the role of science counsellors and science diplomacy?</p>
15.00 pm	Adjourn