

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



United Nations General Assembly 2020. 75th Anniversary.

Science at UNGA75

How science can advance the SDGs.

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1. GLOBAL SCIENCE COLLABORATION CONFERENCE 2020 (GSCC2020)

ISC will organise the second edition of the Global Science Collaboration Conference around the 75th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA75) in New York in September 2020. The role and contribution of science to the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be the central theme of this conference. The objective is to develop and launch initiatives which demonstrate global science mechanisms and activities in support of the attainment of the SDGs. Science infrastructures and digital research capacity building are crucial to enable scientists to collaborate together at global level to create opportunities for wide ranging initiatives that can produce innovations to support challenges in the area of health, climate, environment, energy, agriculture and food, amongst a range of other thematic objectives.

GSCC2020 builds on the successful Global Science Coalition Conference which brought together 2500 representatives from 100 countries at the European Parliament in Brussels in March 2013 during the Ireland Council Presidency of the European Union. The conference was opened by Maire Geoghegan Quinn, the European Union Commissioner for science and innovation and closed by Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny in his role as chairman of the European Council.

At this pivotal moment of UNGA75, GSCC2020 will bring together thought leaders, scientists, technologists, innovators, policymakers, decision makers, regulators, financiers, philanthropists, journalists and editors and community leaders to increase science and citizen collaborations across a wide spectrum of themes, including health, ICT, nutrition, agriculture and the environment.

The conference will examine what enabling policy, regulatory and financial environment is needed to put in place and sustain the science mechanisms needed to support truly global scientific collaborations across continents, across nations and

across themes. Scientific discovery through the analysis of massive data sets is at hand. This data-enabled approach to science, research and development will be necessary.

Attainment of the SDGs requires the alignment of policies and regulations that impact science and technology to allow science data to move from country to country. The recognition and importance of ICT as a hugely transformative and enabling influence across all science disciplines will be key theme of the conference. Without regulatory equivalence it's difficult to see how the health science and research cooperation that needs to happen between developed and less developed nations will take place. Without alignment, existing disparate regulatory frameworks are and will continue to be a barrier: a barrier to innovation; a barrier to technology transfer; a barrier that will impede progress in addressing health deprivation and other challenges. This applies to diagnostics, therapy development and healthcare delivery. ICT technologies and health research are intertwined.

GSCC2020 will promote unitary science: all science disciplines are ultimately linked and enabled by ICT data infrastructures. Without understanding this, policymakers and legislators are likely to embark on disparate and disconnected initiatives. Here also, lack of coordination and national vested interests will conspire to impede scientific progress and innovations to address truly global and immediate challenges. This lack of alignment at local and national level is an impediment to progress: lack of alignment at global level will be disastrous.

The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development, is the first Global Sustainable Development Report prepared by the Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General¹.

2. GOALS

- 1. Raise awareness and develop an understanding of the vital contribution of science and technology to achieving and implementing the UN's SDGs and Agenda 2030;**

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport/2019>

2. **Introduce concepts for ICT enabled science mechanisms to support achieving SDGs, based in part on EU science research initiatives²**

3. THEMES

1. **Health**
2. **Space and Astronomy**
3. **People Centered Internet**
4. **ICT**
5. **Data-enabled science**

4. CHANNELS

1. UN's International Telecommunications Union
2. People Centred Internet
3. Square Kilometre Array Radio Telescope Intergovernmental Organization (SKAO)
4. Data-enabled science
5. Assistive technologies
6. Youth engagement and science skills
7. Data protection legislation: GDPR
8. Data infrastructure for Global Health
9. Building Science capacity globally
10. Regulation to enable scientists to exchange knowledge and know-how globally (e.g. health data)
11. Policy alignment to enable and support scientific research locally, regionally, nationally and globally
12. Mechanisms to support science collaboration to achieve the SDGs
13. Exploit existing knowledge and know-how contained in patents and other forms of intellectual property for science

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/european-research-infrastructures/esfri_en

14. Develop post-mercantilist trade policy to enable free data and support science.

5. FORMAT

- 400 science, technology and innovation sessions
- 10 Plenaries
- 20 Workshops
- 5 Exhibitions
- 1 Ring the Opening Bell on Wall Street NYSE
- 40 Meetings with science-investors on Wall Street
- 150 Nations involved
- 100 Media to cover the GSCC meetings
- 20 Science-collaboration clinics
- 1 Supplement in the Financial Times, leading the way in business, society and the wider world.
- 1 Supplement in Nature, the leading international journal of science
- 1 Youth Science Parliament

KEY OBJECTIVES

5.1. Science

- Present key science initiatives in a series of workshops, presentations, seminars, roundtables and plenary sessions addressing each of the UN SDGs
- Promote collaboration through enabling researchers, scientists and civil society organisations to become aware of each other and work to understand and address key challenges
- Disseminate information on key science programmes and initiatives including the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research (2021-2027) and other research funding at global level

- Science themes for the conference will include health, environment, climate, space, astronomy, ICT, amongst others
- Focus meetings will be organised around each of the UN SDGs, bringing key stakeholders together to understand and advance global approaches
- Priority will be given to develop science mechanisms to implement the SDGs
- Support building capacity and infrastructure for science across all areas
- Demonstrate how research infrastructures work
- Promote awareness of data-enabled science and related capacities and infrastructures
- Understand how the activities supported by the ITU can contribute to global science generally and in particular in “the Age of Digital Interdependence”, which is the title of the [report](#) published by the United Nations in June 2019

5.2. Policy in step with future science

- Facilitate discussion between scientists and policy makers covering science and technology, intellectual property, data protection regulations, health, ICT, space, climate, environment, astronomy, agri-food, amongst others;
- Inform trade policy so that it becomes less mercantilist and more able to deal with trade in knowledge, know-how and intellectual property;
- Support implementation of WTO TRIPS Article 66.2 where “developed country members shall provide incentives to enterprises and institutions in their territories for the purpose of promoting and encouraging technology transfer to least developed country members in order to enable them to create a sound and viable technological base”;
- Show how pre-competitive research can provide the foundation for global science cooperation and innovation;
- Show how unitary science can support global participation in science;
- Schedule partnering meeting; organise workshops on how many research projects and international level.

- Promote multilateralism for science;
- Explore how to remove the “them and us” mentality to allow science cooperation to flourish;

5.3. Regulation for science and innovation

- Examine key regulations such as the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and regulation covering digital diagnostics, clinical trials, amongst other areas, and their impact on science, in particular in the area of health;

5.4. Funding needed for SDG Science mechanisms

- Identify opportunities for combining non-exchequer, philanthropic and public funds to support global science and cooperation
- Set up thematic meetings with investors and corporate leadership
- Develop financial models that could work to fund science at global level combining public and private funding
- Develop initial proposals for future funding programmes

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Clive Cookson, science editor of the Financial Times, will moderate a number of key sessions;
2. Taking place during the German EU Presidency (July-December 2020);
3. The Financial Times and the Journal Nature will produce dedicated special supplements around the event;
4. Two days of meetings on Wall Street at the New York Stock Exchange. South African foreign affairs minister, Naledi Pandor, rings the bell to open the New York Stock Exchange while highlighting the theme of science contribution to the SDGs and launching a series of meetings with corporate financiers on science funding. Many in corporate leadership have discovered their consciences, and we want to provide them with a path to salvation!

5. Every science and ICT/Digital minister in the world will be approached for their engagement and support, to have their respective missions at the United Nations host individual meetings and to request participation of their Prime Minister;
6. A powerful youth programme for children, teens and students. This includes a space-related initiative currently involving some 60 countries and this number is; very likely to increase. To inspire the youth of the world to come together and lead regional inter generation projects to attain the “moonshots” of the 21st century - the first in this series would be the 2030 SDGs.

By way of background, the format of the conference very much replicates the global science collaboration conference which took place in the European Parliament under the chairmanship of Sean Kelly MEP in 2013 as part of the Irish Council Presidency: <http://globalsciencecollaboration.org/home>.

Approximately 64 MEPs supported the event in 2013 by hosting meetings, chairing meetings, speakers and keynote speakers. 2000 people from approximately 100 countries participated in the last meeting. Many MEPs used the event to highlight activities in their constituency. It was one of the largest meetings ever held at the European Parliament.

How can science and digital innovation become unifying themes crossing today's divides? By applying them to build capability and capacity so ordinary people can more easily come together to address the day to day problems faced by families, students, workers, rural and indigenous communities and isolated urban and suburban dwellers.

Using AI for data infrastructure and system infrastructure integration, we can create routes which many communities can use to achieve the SDG's in their own fashion at a sustainable pace; as digital infrastructure increasingly is incorporated into every

industry including public services - we must address the challenges of mobile health, online education, driverless transportation to name a few. Addressing the political and social needs of AI cannot be confined to abstract theoretical testing in sterile laboratories or data centers where confirmation bias is an increasing danger. The alpha and beta testing of scientific, social and economic interventions and ICT can be done in situ “in real life” within structured cohorts of people in connected communities so the extraordinary benefits can be operationalized while setting up guardrails within culturally appropriate and context sensitive cross sector legal and regulatory innovation sandboxes.

In parallel setting up these sandboxes as living learning community allows the ethical and auditing concerns around ‘learning’ to be investigated and explored. Opportunities for hands on learning could expand industrial era accreditation and certification to allow learning to occur naturally in the pursuit of common goals individually or in teams.

as intro to topic..

“Artificial Intelligence is more profound than electricity or fire, ” Sundar Pichai Google CEO.

No Government, Enterprise, Research or Academic entity can afford to ignore the ongoing and transformative realities of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the fact is that AI is already impacting all around us, and will more and more affect how we live our lives, do our research and run our businesses..