

UNESCO Chairs Seminars

Towards a Pact for the Future

Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation

Date and time: Wednesday 5 June 2024, 14:00 to 15:30 (Paris time)
Languages: English and French
Format: Zoom – [Please click here to register](#)

Science, technology and innovation have the potential to accelerate progress towards sustainable development, in its social, economic and environmental dimensions. Digital technologies, in particular, are dramatically transforming our world. However, there are too many people in our world, especially the poorest and most vulnerable in developing countries, that do not have access to critical life-changing technologies. To fulfil our promise to leave no one behind, science and technology cannot be the preserve of the few. Innovations that can make our planet more sustainable and our societies more prosperous should be accessible to all of humanity.

Moreover, science, technology and innovation can also perpetuate and deepen divides and patterns of discrimination and inequality within and between countries. One of the defining questions of our times is how to realize the potential of digital and emerging technologies while managing the risks through enhanced international cooperation. This is central to a proposed Global Digital Compact, to be annexed to the Pact for the Future.

Because of the critical role that science plays in our lives, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that: “Everyone has the right to freely share in scientific advancement and its benefits.” The right to science is also enshrined in the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#). We must build trust in science, promote interdisciplinarity and international cooperation, and ensure that all marginalised groups benefit from and can participate in the development and application of science, technology and innovation.

To make science and its benefits more accessible to all, the movement for “open science” has been growing, culminating in 2021 in the adoption of the [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#). The Recommendation provides a guiding framework, with countries agreeing on shared areas of action to boost not only access to scientific knowledge but also access to the tools and processes of science. The Recommendation calls for openness in engagement with society and dialogue across knowledge systems – with the goal of promoting science as a global public good and creating stronger science systems that are of service to all.

The [International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development](#) (2024-2033) represents a unique opportunity to mobilize sciences for the common good, to respond to the complex and multidimensional challenges of today’s world, and to unlock the full potential of sciences in pursuing sustainable development and ensuring a safe and prosperous future for all.

This UNESCO Chairs Seminar on *Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation*, will focus on some the key themes addressed in Chapter 3 of the draft [Pact for the Future](#), including capacity development; the right to science; gender equality; traditional and local knowledge; and international cooperation. Particular attention will be given to the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, an international framework for open science policy and practice that aims to reduce the technological and knowledge divides between and within countries.

Provisional Agenda

Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation Wednesday 5 June 2024, 14:00 – 15:30 (Paris time)	
14:00-14:10	<p>Welcome Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amal Kasry, Chief of Section of Basic Sciences, Research Innovation, and Engineering, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO
14:10-14:30	<p>Open and inclusive science, technology and innovation Moderator: Kornelia Tzinova, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for West Africa in Dakar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ismael Rafols, Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Diversity and Inclusion in Global Science, Leiden University, Netherlands • Sujatha Raman, Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Science Communication for the Public Good, The Australian National University, Australia • Rajesh Tandon, Co-Chairholder, UNESCO Chair in Community-based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, PRIA, India
14:30-14:50	<p>Open discussion All participants</p>
14:50-15:10	<p>The right to science, valorizing and communicating knowledge Moderator: Kornelia Tzinova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koko Houedakor, Chairholder, Chaire UNESCO « femmes, science et gestion raisonnée de l'eau en Afrique de l'Ouest », Université de Lomé, Togo • Jelal Ezzine, Chairholder, Chaire UNESCO sur la politique de la science, de la technologie et de l'innovation, Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Tunis (ENIT), Tunisia • Randy Covington, Coordinator, UNESCO Chair for Data, Media and Society, University of South Carolina, United States of America
15:10-15:25	<p>Open discussion All participants</p>
15:25-15:30	<p>Closing remarks</p>

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