

2026 International Day of Women and Girls in Science  
“From Vision to Impact: Redefining STEM by Closing the Gender Gap”

Wednesday, 11 February 2026, Room I, UNESCO Headquarters

9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. | Welcoming Coffee

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | **Opening Plenary Session**

*Master of ceremony:* **Ms Lora Gailly**, Associate Project Officer, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section, UNESCO

**Welcoming remarks:**

**Ms Lidia Brito**, Assistant-Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

**Ms Elisabeth Moreno**, President, Fondation Femmes@Numérique

**Ms Anne Le Hénanff**, Minister Delegate for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Affairs, France

*Keynote message:* **Ms Sarah de Lagarde**, Brighter Future Strategist, Janus Henderson Investors, United Kingdom

10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. | **Special Address**

**Mr Khaled El-Enany**, Director-General, UNESCO

10:55 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. | **Roundtable #1- Redefining Inclusive Health Research:  
Women, New Technology, and the Future of Well-Being**

**Ms Priscilla Baker**, Professor of Chemistry, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa; 2025 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards Laureate

**Mr Augusto Rojas-Martinez**, Professor-Researcher, Innovative Therapies Research Group, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Tecnológico de Monterrey; L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Jury Member, Mexico

**Ms Juliette Mauro**, Co-Founder, Femtech France; CEO & Co-Founder, My S Life, France

**Ms Emanuelle Valentin-Fouchs**, General Manager France, Specialty Care, Sanofi, France

*Moderated by Ms Malu Junco*, Science communicator and integrated sciences scholar, Claremont McKenna College, Brazil/USA

12:10 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. | **Ignite Talk: Reimagining AI Without the Gender Gap**

**Ms Moojan Asghari**, Co-founder, Women in AI, France/Iran

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Lunch break

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | **Roundtable #2- Redefining Inclusive Cybersecurity:  
Women, New Technology, and the Future of Digital Trust**

**Mr Vincent Strubel**, Director General, French National Agency for the Security of Information Systems (ANSSI), France

**Ms Helena Henry Maziku**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Dar es Salaam; 2023 OWSD Early Career Fellow, Tanzania

**Ms Melanie Marmande**, Cybersecurity student, Toulouse Ynov Campus; Security Operations Center Analyst, Sopra Steria, France

*Moderated by Mr **Guilherme Canela**, Director of the Division for Digital Inclusion and Policies and Digital Transformation, UNESCO (TBC)*

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Fireside Chat: *Reimagining Science Entrepreneurship Without the Gender Gap*

**Ms [Prativa Pandey](#)**, Founder and CEO, Herveda Botanicals and Catalyst Technology Pvt. Ltd.; Research Fellow, Research Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology; 2019 OWSD Early Career Fellow, Nepal

**Ms [Marie Eloy](#)**, President, PositiveMakers; Columnist, Les Echos, France

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. | Roundtable #3: *Redefining Futures: Educating, Inspiring, and Leading with Women in STEM*

**Ms [Ayumi Moore Aoki](#)**, Founder and CEO, Women in Tech® Global and Tech Diplomacy Forum, France/Brazil

**Ms [Sophie Thibault](#)**, Directrice Générale Lenovo

**Mr [Borhene Chakroun](#)**, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO

**Ms [Luisa F. Echeverría-King](#)**, President, OWSD; Director, Science Diplomacy and International Scientific Cooperation at Universidad Simón Bolívar, Colombia

*Moderated by Ms [Maria Begona Lasagabaster](#), Director, Gender Equality Division, UNESCO*

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | *Closing remarks and next steps*

Closing remarks by **Claude Roiron**, Senior Official for Gender Equality at the Ministry of National Education

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Cocktail by invitation (7<sup>th</sup> floor, UNESCO Restaurant)