



2026 Global Conference of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development

Thematic Event

Fostering South-South Scientific Collaborations within the Science Decade

Date: 16 July 2026

Time: 15:25– 16:40

Room VII, UNESCO Headquarters

Description of the event:

This interactive dialogue aims to give voice and situate Southern scientific priorities in shaping the IDSSD implementation strategy and the post-2030 agenda. The dialogue will harness experiences, good practices, and inputs from Southern organizations that are leading science development to forge stronger partnerships across southern regions and strengthen bridges between science-policy-society and the global north. In doing so, the session will highlight South-South scientific collaboration not merely as a mechanism for participation, but as a driver of agenda-setting, funding equity, shared scientific infrastructure, and policy influence within the IDSSD framework.

1. Background and objectives:

The International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development provides a unique opportunity to reimagine how international scientific collaboration can better support sustainable development. While South-South scientific cooperation has expanded significantly over recent decades, it remains underrepresented in global science governance, agenda-setting, and research funding mechanisms. Yet, countries of the Global South are increasingly leading innovative approaches to addressing complex and interconnected global challenges through mission-oriented research, regional networks, and knowledge co-production with policymakers, practitioners, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. As discussions begin on the implementation of the IDSSD and the post-2030 sustainable development agenda, there is a timely need to ensure that Southern perspectives, priorities,

and experiences are included in shaping the future landscape of international scientific collaborations.

This interactive dialogue aims to provide a platform for Southern leaders in science to inform the priorities for the 2026-2029 implementation of the IDSSD and contribute to the design of the post-2030 agenda. It will explore two guiding questions: 1. What are the intra- and inter-regional priorities for South-South scientific Collaborations that should be addressed through the IDSSD? What are the benefits of aligning global and regional agendas with IDSSD? and 2) what recommendations do Southern leaders have to align the IDSSD and post-2030 agenda with the South-South research priorities and needs? Drawing on experiences, good practices, and diverse modalities of South-South collaborations, including transdisciplinary research networks, joint funding mechanisms, capacity-building initiatives, and science-policy agendas, the dialogue will identify opportunities to forge stronger partnerships across Southern regions while reinforcing constructive engagement with Global North partners. By doing so, the session will position South scientific collaborations not only as a mechanism for participation but as a strategic driver of agenda-setting, equitable research funding, shared scientific infrastructure, knowledge co-production, and evidence-informed policymaking within the IDSSD framework and beyond.

2. Proposed Agenda:

Time	Agenda item
15:25	Welcome and opening (Belmont Forum)
15:30 - 16:02	Round of dialogue 1: <i>What are the intra and inter regional priorities for South-South scientific Collaborations that should be addressed through the IDSSD? What the benefits of aligning global and regional agendas?</i> Sharizad Dahlan, ISTIC Abdelmajid Ben Amara, FASRC Michael Nxumalo, NRF/SGCI Blessing Magonziwa, University of Zimbabwe, Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)
16:02 - 16:10	Overview of the Discussion Paper on South-South Collaborations (Belmont Forum)
16:10 - 16:30	Round of dialogue 2: Hearing all these insights, <i>what recommendations do South leaders have to</i>

	<i>align the IDSSD and post-2030 agenda with the South-South research priorities and needs?</i> Please add specific recommendations from your organisation's perspective and potential contributions. Matilda Dipieri, IDRC Sharizad Dahlan, ISTIC Abdelmajid Ben Amara, FASRC Michael Nxumalo, NRF/SGCI Blessing Magonziwa OWSD Zimbabwe
16:30 - 16:35	Questions and comments from the audience
16:35 - 16:40	Closing remarks: Matilda Dipieri, IDRC The session will end with a summary of the main takeaways and next steps for situating and fostering South-South scientific collaborations within the IDSSD.

3. Expected outcomes:

- Identification of key South-South priorities and needs to align with the IDSSD 2026–2029 implementation of the IDSSD and the post-2030 agenda.
- Recommendations for potential alignment between South-South research priorities and needs and the IDSSD and post-2030 agenda.

4. Contact person:

Name: Fany Ramos Quispe
 Title/Institution: Belmont Forum
 Email: fany.ramosquispe@belmontforum.org

Name: Laurent Bernardou
 Title/Institution: Belmont Forum
 Email: laurent.bernadou@belmontforum.org