



Peter Brabeck-Letmathe

Chairman,
GESDA Board of Directors,
Austria

Opening Plenary Part-1

Welcome Address

Dear representatives of GESDA's Founders,

- Ambassador Alexandre Fasel, Swiss Special Representative for Science Diplomacy representing today Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation Martina Hirayama
- State Councillor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva Nathalie Fontanet
- Executive Councillor of the City of Geneva Sami Kanaan

Dear representatives of the United Nations Organization,

- Ms Maria-Francesca Spatolisano representing the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres
- Ms Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations office at Geneva,

Dear President of the Fondation pour Genève, Mr Marc Pictet,

Dear representatives of the Academic and the Diplomacy world,

Dear all GESDA guests, here in Geneva and online throughout the world,

On behalf of the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator, I am pleased to welcome you to the opening of the first Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit, and to welcome you, at Campus Biotech and online.

Twenty-four months ago, the Founders at the origin of our organization, the Swiss and the Geneva governments along with the authorities of the City of Geneva entrusted us with a mission:

“To develop an instrument of anticipation and action in the service of humanity in order to widen the circle of beneficiaries of advances in science and technology and on the other hand to strengthen Geneva as a preeminent hub for multilateralism.”

Accelerating the use of opportunities that advanced scientific explorations bring to the world seems straightforward. Although I must say, the two years since we have been working on the subject have proven us different. It was quite difficult. Firstly, and thanks to our Scientific Forum, co-headed by Joël Mesot from ETHZ and Martin Vetterli from EPFL Lausanne, we had to access, scout and discover what is already cooking in the laboratories all over the world. And secondly, we confronted this knowl-

edge with our Diplomacy Forum, headed by Michael Møller, former Director General at the UN Office in Geneva, to better understand the political and social implications those scientific breakthroughs will have to confront once they are ready to be applied in our daily life.

In accordance with our mission, we have in fact developed two complementary instruments:

- First, an anticipatory instrument, the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, which offers an open source overview of the scientific disruptions in the making that will unfold their effects in five, ten, and 25 years. It is signed by 543 scientists from around the world. It presents 216 disruptions that will very quickly impact all of our lives, wherever we live, whatever our age or gender, in the digital domain, in the field of health, the environment and science diplomacy.
- Secondly, an instrument for action, the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit, which is bringing together 900 participants including 108 speakers from 33 different countries.

Thank you to all for your huge interest in participating to this inaugural 2021 edition and being with us today. And welcome, ladies and gentlemen, into GESDA's Anticipatory Situation Room, displaying for you on each wall of this room the content to be found in the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar® 2021 about the three fundamental questions and the four scientific fields we have been working on for 24 months.

The three fundamental questions are:

- **WHO ARE WE, AS HUMANS?** What does it mean to be human in the era of robots, gene editing and augmented reality?
- **HOW ARE WE GOING TO LIVE TOGETHER?** What technology can be deployed to help reduce inequality, improve well-being and foster inclusive development?
- **HOW CAN WE ASSURE THE WELL-BEING OF HUMANKIND AND THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET EARTH?** How can we supply the world population with the necessary food and energy while regenerating our planet?

The four Scientific Frontiers issues are:

- Quantum Revolution and Advanced Artificial Intelligence
- Human Augmentation
- Eco-Regeneration and Geoengineering
- Science and Diplomacy – perhaps something relatively new.

The walls around you reflect:

- the Pulse of society on these topics and the related debates that has taken place
- the Pulse of science – what is already cooking in the laboratories
- a first Pulse of diplomacy on what could or should be done with these upcoming scientific disruptions.

The goal of this Summit is, based on the results presented in the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, to open a first global consultation on these upcoming disruptions and their potential impact, with you, ladies and gentlemen, representatives of the political authorities, the diplomats, the philanthropists, the entrepreneurs, the NGOs, and the citizens, and all the interested people throughout the world.

We will focus during these three days on 16 of the scientific disruptions presented in our 2021 GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, so that you can work on solutions, initiatives and projects that benefit everyone in the world and contribute to the achievement of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The first concrete solutions coming out of your thinking and your input will then be presented in the second edition of the Radar and the Summit, both scheduled to take place in Geneva from 29 to 31 August 2022. Both our Radar and our Summit are being developed in close relationship and partnership with the Fondation pour Genève, represented here by its President Marc Pictet and Vice President Guillaume Pictet, and in close collaboration with a large number of partners, including of course our Founders. I cannot mention here all our partners, but they are all listed in the Radar and on our website. Let me

just thank the Open Science Publisher *Frontiers* in Lausanne and the XPRIZE Foundation established in California whose CEO Anousheh Ansari is a member of the GESDA Diplomacy Forum. XPRIZE is going to set up its offices in Geneva, here at Campus Biotech. We are working together to launch a joint public competition to develop quantum applications in collaboration with the World Food Programme, the UN Habitat and the World Health Organization. Thank you to our Founders and all our Partners for your support and your trust.

Let me conclude, ladies and gentlemen, by underlining a matter of fact. The speed of scientific and technological development is accelerating even further, and it plays an even greater role in our daily life. In order to fully take advantage of those advancements, we need to coordinate the complex relationships and interactions between scientists, politicians, citizen and entrepreneurs whose agendas, mindsets, experiences, and responsibilities are all very, very different. Geneva, with its UN headquarters, international organizations, universities, and NGOs, is the ideal place to develop science diplomacy based on anticipation and participation by all.

So, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Geneva. Welcome to our first Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit. And as GESDA motto is saying, let's all together use the future to build a better present. Thank you very much.

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