



Use the Future to build the Present

Press release

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Climate, technology, multilateralism: Global curriculum matures with Geneva Science Diplomacy Week 202

In the capital of multilateralism, a new global curriculum for science diplomacy is advancing with an impressive cohort of 30 global professionals from 24 countries.

These “students” – who already serve in key roles such as an ambassador, national lawmaker, professor, executive director or chief of staff – will be immersed in a series of sessions on Geneva’s science and diplomacy ecosystem from May 8 to 12.

During our second annual Geneva Science Diplomacy Week, we will take the next step in developing our global curriculum as an entry point into the rapidly evolving practice and research of science diplomacy in Geneva, Switzerland and the world. The United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization, the University of Geneva, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Geneva Graduate Institute, CERN and GESDA are all hosts.

The sessions, organized around the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar, will explore the diplomatic and governance frameworks needed for breakthrough science and technology advances to benefit humanity. As science moves faster than policy, we need a new generation of leadership that is comfortable and well-versed in moving between these different worlds for effective multilateral action.

“These are real-life trends that require scientific anticipation and diplomatic acceleration,” said Marga Gual Soler, GESDA’s Head of Science Diplomacy Capacity Building. “For example, nations are creating roles for scientists and engineers in their foreign services. Swiss universities in Geneva and Zurich are designing new diplomatic methods that use machine learning and AI to optimize and depoliticize negotiations. UN organizations are negotiating new multilateral instruments for future climate governance, or to prevent the next pandemic.”

Participants will have a front-row seat in discussions and will be able to contribute and link back to related efforts in their countries and institutions. They hail from Armenia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, the Philippines, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, the U.K., and the U.S.

Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator Foundation (GESDA)

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Complementing the weeklong immersion program is a public Open Forum providing a platform for the International Geneva community to discuss key upcoming trends and areas of innovation in science and diplomacy, such as global greenhouse monitoring, preventing dual use of emerging technologies, or the role of technology actors in diplomacy, geopolitics and global governance.

Geneva Science and Diplomacy Week is organized by GESDA in collaboration with 17 partner institutions (World Meteorological Organization, University of Zurich, CERN, UNITAR, EPFL, GCSP, Geneva Graduate Institute, DiploFoundation, Foraus, Geneva Science-Policy Interface, INGSA, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Science Council, NORRAG, SDG LAB, SidLab, swiss young academy). Program and registration: <https://gesda.global/science-diplomacy-week/>

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