

Quantum Diplomacy in Action Conference

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Campus Biotech
Chemin des Mines 9, 1202 Geneva

Quantum computing is rapidly advancing, bringing transformative potential for science, industry, and society. The accelerated pace of the technological development present opportunities and risks: from their potential to help address global challenges such as the climate crisis, health, and food security, to the need to mitigate emerging threats including cybersecurity vulnerabilities and the widening “quantum divide”. Unequal access to the technology, missing standards, and uncoordinated national efforts risk deepening global disparities in science and innovation. Without proactive governance cooperation, these dynamics could not only concentrate benefits among a few while leaving many countries and communities behind, but also limit the technology’s potential to address global challenges at scale. This makes anticipatory, inclusive global governance essential now.

The *Quantum Diplomacy in Action Conference* brings together leaders from diplomacy, government, science, industry, and international organizations to address these challenges. Building on the dialogues with diplomats and intergovernmental organizations around [activating multilateral governance of quantum computing for the SDGs](#) - initiated by GESDA through its leading contribution to the Open Quantum Institute (OQI), - this flagship event moves from discussion to action: developing concrete proposals that can be implemented. Key discussions will explore national quantum strategies, security and dual-use considerations, intellectual property and access, environmental impacts, and the quantum divide.

Objectives

The conference has three main objectives: to foster dialogue on quantum diplomacy by sharing national experiences, strategies, and policy approaches to quantum computing; to identify priority areas for international cooperation and encourage national and collective actions to advance anticipatory and inclusive governance of quantum computing; and to co-create a knowledge base and policy insights that will inform the 2026 OQI Intelligence Report on Quantum Diplomacy in Action.

Target Participants

Target participants include Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives (PRs), senior government and policy leaders, representatives of intergovernmental organization (IGO), domain and quantum experts, and representatives from OQI and GESDA.

ARRIVAL & COFFEE (08.45-09.15)

SECTION 1 – WHY QUANTUM COMPUTING MATTERS FOR DIPLOMACY (09.15-10.30)

This opening session highlights key themes in quantum computing that are relevant from the perspective of multilateral diplomacy, helping Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, and senior government officials understand the strategic implications for their countries and institutions.

- Opening Remarks – **Prof. Marilyne Andersen**, Director General, GESDA and **Enrica Porcari**, Chief Information Officer, CERN
- International Geneva as Anchor for Quantum Diplomacy, **H.E. Ambassador Thomas Gürber**, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- Why Quantum Computing Matters, **Prof. Klaus Ensslin**, President of the Swiss Quantum Commission, ETH Zurich

SECTION 2 – NATIONAL APPROACHES (10.30 - 12.00)

In this moderated session, countries present their national quantum strategies, highlighting how these approaches address international cooperation and align with key policy dimensions such as security, intellectual property, environment, and the quantum divide. The session offers an opportunity for national representatives to share insights, illustrate good practices, and exchange lessons learned, helping to connect national policies with emerging multilateral governance efforts. This section is targeted at Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, and senior government officials. Confirmed speakers include:

- Quantum in Mexico – **H.E. Ambassador Francisca Méndez Escobar**, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- Quantum in China – **Wanning Zhang, Counsellor**, Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- Quantum in the EU – **Prof. Tommaso Calarco**, Secretary of the Top-Level Advisory Board on Quantum Technologies, European Commission
- Quantum in Japan – **Hiro Nakata**, Board Member, Q-STAR, Japan
- Quantum in the United Kingdom – **Dr. Joe Willis**, Quantum Policy Advisor, UK Office for Quantum, Government of the United Kingdom
- Quantum in the Netherlands – **H.E. Ambassador Ernst Noorman**, Ambassador at Large for Cyber Affairs, Government of the Netherlands

BUFFET LUNCH (12.00-13.00)

SECTION 3 – GOVERNANCE OF QUANTUM COMPUTING – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (13.00-16.00)

Policy, diplomatic, and scientific experts will jointly explore governance challenges and develop practical ideas for action, building on work prepared ahead of the conference. Insights from roundtable discussions in smaller groups led by domain experts will inform the plenary discussions and help shape the international agenda on responsible quantum governance.

- Intellectual Property and Human Right to Science (including experts WIPO, GESDA)
- Multi-lateral Responses to Quantum Divide (including experts UNESCO, UNU, IUPAP, Institut Quantique)
- Environmental and Energy Impact (including experts from QEI, ORNL, JIJ, UNFCCC)
- Security and Dual-use (including experts from CIGI, IBM, SIPRI, IE University, UNIDIR)

SECTION 4 – THE ROAD AHEAD – CONCRETE NEXT STEPS (16.00-17.00)

The closing session will review the key outcomes from thematic discussions and highlight concrete actions proposed by countries and experts. It will serve to connect national and international initiatives, setting a shared direction for follow-up engagement and continued collaboration on quantum governance.

- Discussion with roundtable discussion leads
- Closing Remarks (GESDA DG/OQI)

NETWORKING COCKTAIL (17.00-18.30)