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International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development

Concept Note
Second Call for Initiatives

International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024-2033)

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Second Call for IDSSD Initiatives

Background:
The International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033), proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, aims to mobilize the global scientific community in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first round of endorsed initiatives laid a solid foundation by catalyzing diverse interdisciplinary initiatives across regions and sectors.

While we continue to welcome initiatives aligned with the broad scope of the Science Decade, the second global Call for Initiatives places special emphasis on addressing critical sustainable development challenges that require bold, interdisciplinary, and scalable solutions. This Call encourages proposals that are grounded in real-world needs and demonstrate how science and technology can serve inclusive development, environmental sustainability, and societal resilience.

In particular, this Call highlights the emerging areas of science and technology not as ends in themselves, but as tools to tackle urgent SDG-related issues, such as climate adaptation, energy access, health equity, food security, and environmental restoration. Proposals are encouraged to demonstrate practical relevance, cross-sectoral impact, and potential for long-term transformation. Initiatives that actively engage youth, women, and underserved regions, especially in Africa, are strongly encouraged.

Strategic Priority Areas

1. Artificial Intelligence and Big Data for Sustainable Development

Proposals that leverage AI and data science to address climate modeling, precision agriculture, health surveillance, disaster forecasting, biodiversity conservation, misinformation detection, and evidence-based policymaking. Proposals should reflect ethical principles and responsible governance.

2. Green Energy and Environmental Technologies

Solutions that promote clean energy transitions (e.g., hydrogen, solar, storage), circular economy approaches, sustainable materials, and low-carbon industrial processes aligned with climate mitigation goals.

3. Life Sciences and Health Technologies

Research that addresses global health equity through genomics, personalized medicine, digital health platforms, disease modeling, and the One Health framework integrating human, animal, and environmental health — while upholding ethical standards, sound governance, and responsible scientific practices.

4. Smart Agriculture and Food Security

Initiatives focus on transforming food systems through precision technologies, climate-adaptive practices, and sustainable farming innovations. It supports digital tools, low-carbon solutions, and inclusive approaches to enhance food security and ecosystem resilience, especially in vulnerable and developing regions.

5. Biodiversity and Ecosystem-Based Solutions

Initiatives that support the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity, especially in biosphere reserves and other key ecosystems. Emphasis is placed on nature-based solutions that enhance resilience, protect livelihoods, and contribute to multiple SDGs.

6. Quantum Science and Technologies for Sustainability

Initiatives that apply quantum science to sustainable development challenges, such as environmental monitoring, early warning systems, and resource management. Proposals should clearly demonstrate SDG relevance and are encouraged to include capacity-building activities and public awareness efforts, especially in underserved regions. Ethical, governance, and social responsibility dimensions should also be addressed.

7. Science literacy and science culture

Initiatives aimed at enhancing public science literacy, building trust in science, and strengthening STEM education and science communication—particularly in areas such as climate change, public health, precision agriculture, quantum science, and artificial intelligence—offer significant potential for impact.

8. Science-driven policy ecosystems equipped to address the triple planetary crisis

Initiatives that strengthen the resilience and integrity of science systems in crisis-affected environments. Emphasis is placed on protecting the freedom and safety of scientists and reforming governance and evaluation systems to ensure responsiveness to societal needs and policy and public decision-making sensitive to scientific evidence.

Expected Outputs

- Broader diversification in the portfolio of initiatives.
- Increased focus on initiatives that directly address key challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Greater emphasis on high-impact initiatives with the potential to attract scaling and long-term investment.