

A Dialogue with the Laureates of the
2024 L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* International Awards:
The World Needs Science, and Science Needs Women

Wednesday, 29 May 2024, 2.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m., Room IV, UNESCO Headquarters

Since 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Programme has been celebrating the remarkable achievements of women scientists. By showcasing these exceptional scientists, the programme not only highlights their groundbreaking research but also fosters a culture of female leadership within the scientific community. This increased visibility of women role models in science is key in challenging and dismantling persisting gender stereotypes and biases. Defying these assumptions and prejudices, the Laureates of the 2024 L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* International Awards are the living proof that talent and competence transcend gender boundaries.

As these five outstanding women scientists will be honoured on Tuesday, 28 May at UNESCO Headquarters, we are pleased to convene a dialogue with them on Wednesday, 29 May, centred around the programme's theme: "*The World Needs Science, and Science Needs Women*". This engaging conversation will unfold as a special event, bringing together Member States, accomplished and emerging scientists (including alumnae of the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Programme), stakeholders from the public and private sectors, UNESCO scientific networks and Chairs, as well as students. Together, the 2024 Laureates and the audience will explore two key questions: *Why is science indispensable to the world*, and *Why are women indispensable to science*?

1) *Why is science indispensable to the world?*

Science is the silent force that influences every aspect of our daily lives, often without our realising it. Whether it is the artificial intelligence in our phones, the agricultural innovations that shape our breakfast choices, or the engineering systems underlying transportation, science is everywhere. Yet, its importance goes beyond our routines; it also plays a crucial role in addressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, diseases, and extreme poverty.

The 2024 Laureates will not only present their groundbreaking research in the biological sciences, clinical, health and environmental fields, but also shed light on how their work contributes to tackling the critical issues we are facing.

2) *Why are women indispensable to science?*

On the occasion of the 2024 International Day of Women and Girls in Science, UNESCO launched the global [Call to Action: Closing the Gender Gap in Science](#). This document calls for urgent multistakeholder collaborative actions at various levels, and it highlights that gender disparities in science not only hinder the advancement of women but also impede scientific progress and societal development as a whole.

During the event, the 2024 Laureates will also explore the three key action areas outlined in this UNESCO Call to Action:

1. Dismantling gender stereotypes and biases in science;
2. Opening educational pathways for girls in science; and
3. Creating workplace environments that attract, retain and advance women scientists.

As strong advocates for gender equality in science, the Laureates will provide their insights and actions that UNESCO and its partners can take in order to close the gender gap in science.

Programme

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| 2:15 – 2:30 p.m. | Registration |
| 2:30 – 2:35 p.m. | Opening remarks |
| 2:35 – 3:50 p.m. | Session 1: <i>Why is science indispensable to the world?</i>
<i>Presentations & Q/A with each of the five 2024 Laureates</i> |
| 3:50 – 4:15 p.m. | Coffee break |
| 4:15 – 4:55 p.m. | Session 2: Roundtable on <i>'Why are women indispensable to science?'</i> |
| 4:55 – 5:00 p.m. | Closing remarks |