Science Summit 2025

Action Declaration

Mobilising Science, Diplomacy, and Partnerships to Accelerate Action for the SDGs

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1 Introduction

The Science Summit NYC 2025, held alongside the 80th United Nations General Assembly, demonstrated the extraordinary global momentum behind science as a driver of transformation, cooperation, and measurable progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year's Summit brought together almost 1,000 speakers and nearly 15,000 participants from 155 countries—researchers, policymakers, innovators, youth leaders, civil society, philanthropies, and industry partners—united by a shared conviction: that scientific knowledge and international solidarity are essential to solving the world's most urgent challenges.

The Summit aligns with the commitments outlined in the UN Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, the UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), and the findings of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). Across every track, Science Summit sessions demonstrated how science directly accelerates SDG implementation—whether strengthening health systems (SDG 3), building resilient food systems (SDG 2), expanding digital public infrastructure (SDG 9 & 16), improving climate resilience (SDG 13), advancing gender equality (SDG 5), or deepening global partnerships (SDG 17).

The year 2025 marked a clear shift from *dialogue* to *delivery*. The Summit launched the Science Action Declaration 2025, established new working groups, endorsed policy frameworks, and initiated cross-regional partnerships with tangible commitments for 2025–2026.

Crucially, the Science Summit underscored those global challenges—pandemics, planetary instability, inequality, food insecurity, and digital fragmentation—cannot be addressed without strong scientific ecosystems and inclusive international cooperation. In this context, the Summit demonstrated how scientific collaboration delivers directly against the SDGs by:

- **strengthening national and regional capacities** (SDG 9, SDG 17);
- **expanding equitable access to technology and data** (SDG 5, SDG 10, SDG 16);
- **supporting climate adaptation and resilience** (SDG 7, SDG 12, SDG 13);
- **mobilising finance for innovation and infrastructure** (SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 17);
- **empowering youth and future skills development** (SDG 4, SDG 8);

- **promoting inclusive governance and evidence-based decision-making** (SDG 16).

Above all, the 2025 edition of the Science Summit celebrated what becomes possible when the global scientific community acts with purpose, unity, and optimism. From breakthrough initiatives in genomics and food systems to pioneering work in digital public infrastructure, space science, youth leadership, women's health, and science-aligned capital markets, the Summit demonstrated science as a strategic engine for achieving the SDGs by 2030 and building a sustainable future beyond it.

As we look toward the Science Summit NYC 2026 and UNGA81, the energy, partnerships, and commitments created this year will continue to expand a global movement: **science working in service of people, planet, and shared prosperity.**

2 Science Summit Charter Statement

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remain the world's most ambitious and comprehensive framework for advancing a sustainable, peaceful, and equitable future for people and planet. Seven years after their adoption—and with only five years remaining until 2030—progress remains uneven. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has highlighted in *Our Common Agenda* the urgency of accelerated, coordinated, and science-informed action. No country can achieve these Goals in isolation; international cooperation remains essential.

At this critical juncture, science, research, and innovation play a vital role in supporting informed decision-making, fostering innovation across sectors, and contributing to the resilience of natural and societal systems. Advancing the SDGs—across health, education, gender equality, climate adaptation, food security, digital transformation, energy, and sustainable cities—requires decisions grounded in robust and independent scientific evidence. It also benefits from the broad participation of researchers, policymakers, youth, Indigenous communities, civil society, philanthropy, and the private sector.

We therefore highlight the following shared principles, aligned with the SDGs:

- **Knowledge**, shared openly and cooperatively, contributes to addressing global challenges such as climate change (SDG 13), pandemic preparedness (SDG 3), sustainable cities (SDG 11), and the protection of nature (SDG 14 & 15).
- **Inclusion and collaboration** are essential to effective scientific cooperation, helping to bridge capacity gaps and expand access to data, technology, and infrastructure (SDG 10, SDG 17).

- **Sustainability** provides an important framework for aligning environmental protection, economic development, and social wellbeing (SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 12, SDG 13).
- **Evidence-informed solutions** can support practical progress and contribute to system transformation in line with the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) and the SDG Stimulus (SDG 17).

The former President of the 77th UN General Assembly, Csaba Kőrösi, captured this ambition with his motto:

"Solutions through Solidarity, Sustainability, and Science."

In this spirit, Science Summit expresses a shared intention to translate these principles into collaborative actions that contribute to advancing the SDGs:

Science Summit Charter

1. Strengthening international cooperation and policy dialogue

Supporting scientific collaboration across regions and contributing to ongoing exchanges on governance approaches in areas such as climate, health, food systems, and digital transformation.

2. Encouraging interdisciplinary approaches and systems thinking

Deepening understanding of the interconnections among environmental, economic, and social systems, and identifying opportunities for integrated solutions. This includes considering integrated perspectives that contribute to addressing complex challenges across these domains.

3. Promoting responsible sharing of knowledge, data, and infrastructure

Recognising the importance of responsible practices in the sharing of knowledge, data, research infrastructure, and artificial intelligence systems. This includes considering aspects such as availability, interoperability, and sustainability of scientific resources, as well as ongoing dialogue on data governance and global stewardship practices.

4. Exploring approaches to research assessment

Considering and reviewing emerging frameworks that recognise a broader range of research contributions, including collaboration, open science, reproducibility, and data-sharing practices. This includes monitoring developments in assessment approaches that aim to reflect diverse forms of scientific output and engagement.

5. Supporting interdisciplinary research collaboration

Supporting and facilitating interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration across relevant fields. This includes recognising approaches that contribute to preparedness and response to global challenges such as pandemics and climate-related risks.

6. Strengthen capacity building and research infrastructure

Recognising the importance of sustained investment in capacity building and the development of robust research infrastructures. This includes supporting the availability, accessibility, and long-term sustainability of facilities, resources, and systems that enable high-quality research and innovation across different contexts.

7. Encouraging gender equality in science and innovation

Recognising the importance of gender equality and inclusive participation in science and innovation, including in research leadership, education, and talent mobility. This includes acknowledging ongoing efforts and frameworks that promote diversity and inclusion across the research ecosystem.

8. Identifying funding needs and engaging in dialogue on financing

Recognising evolving funding needs and gaps in support of research and innovation activities. This includes engaging in dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including financial institutions and partners, to better understand existing financing mechanisms related to SDG-aligned initiatives.

9. Exploring initiatives on research integrity and security

Considering collaborative approaches to strengthening understanding of responsible science and knowledge protection.

10. Maintaining focus on long-term global challenges

Remaining engaged with relevant international processes related to sustainable development, including those associated with the Summit of the Future, the post-2030 agenda, the UNFCCC COP process, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Science, Technology and Innovation Forum.

11. Strengthening Africa–Latin America–Asia - Europe cooperation

Encouraging collaboration across regions through existing platforms and partnerships, with a view to supporting knowledge exchange and joint initiatives. This includes engagement in areas such as sustainable food systems, energy transitions, biodiversity protection, and citizen science, as well as recognising opportunities to build on complementary expertise and shared priorities across regions.

12. Recognising Indigenous and local knowledge systems

Supporting dialogue and collaboration that values diverse knowledge systems in addressing climate, biodiversity, and community resilience.

13. Supporting technology exchange discussions

Encouraging dialogue around mechanisms that facilitate access to technology for least-developed countries.

14. Recognising and supporting women in research as drivers of community impact

Highlighting the role of women researchers as leaders within communities and encouraging greater access to resources and financing to support women-led research and locally relevant innovation for sustainable development.

15. Encouraging innovation ecosystems and Living Labs

Promoting environments that support experimentation, collaboration, and practical solutions for sustainability transitions.

16. Strengthening collaboration on data, AI, and Earth observation

Encouraging cooperation to improve monitoring systems and access to data for decision-making.

17. Supporting dialogue on resilience and preparedness to address global challenges

Recognising the importance of resilience and preparedness in addressing climate change and other global challenges. This includes facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange on data-informed, adaptive and anticipatory approaches, as well as considering long-term scenarios and futures-oriented perspectives to inform preparedness and response across different contexts.

18. Exploring approaches to SDG impact measurement

Encouraging dialogue on approaches to measuring and assessing contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes considering ongoing efforts to improve the transparency, comparability, and robustness of impact metrics, as well as monitoring developments in methodologies and frameworks used to assess SDG-related outcomes across different contexts.

3 Participation & Reach

The Science Summit welcomed an exceptional and truly global community in 2025, reflecting the platform's expanding influence, inclusivity, and relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With 15,000 registered participants, the Summit convened one of its most diverse audiences to date, providing a powerful demonstration of SDG 17 in action—global partnerships mobilising science to drive sustainable development.

Engagement remained consistently high throughout the programme, with an average session attendance of 47 minutes, reflecting deep interest in science-driven, policy-relevant discussions. This level of engagement underscores the Summit's growing role as a trusted forum for SDG implementation, enabling cross-border collaboration, evidence-based policymaking, and knowledge exchange across regions and sectors.

A remarkable cross-section of the global science and innovation ecosystem took part. The composition of participants showed strong alignment with key SDG enablers, including capacity building (SDG 4), innovation ecosystems (SDG 9), inclusive institutions (SDG 16), and global partnerships (SDG 17):

- **Government representatives (17%)** provided insights into national priorities, regulatory frameworks, and public investment strategies essential for SDG delivery.
- **Academia (35%)** contributed research leadership, scientific evidence, and global expertise, directly supporting SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 9 (research and innovation), and SDG 17 (knowledge partnerships).

- **Industry (33%)** brought technological innovation, investment capabilities, digital solutions, and science-based products that are central to achieving SDG 8, SDG 9, and SDG 12.
- **Civil society (9%)** added community-driven perspectives, ensuring that vulnerable groups and local contexts inform solutions aligned with SDG 5, SDG 10, and SDG 11.
- **Philanthropy (6%)** supported mission-oriented funding, enabling catalytic investments aligned with SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, and SDG 17.

This diversity not only enriched the dialogue but also ensured that the Summit's outcomes were multidisciplinary, inclusive, and focused on measurable impact, strengthening the science–policy–society interface called for by the UN Global Sustainable Development Report.

The Summit also continued its commitment to gender inclusion and the expansion of women's voices in science, policy, and innovation—an essential accelerator of SDG 5 (Gender Equality). With a balanced representation of 42% women, 51% men, and 7% non-binary or preferring not to say, the Summit reaffirmed its dedication to building equitable scientific ecosystems and ensuring that all genders shape the global science agenda. This commitment directly supports SDG targets on representation, leadership, and inclusive institutions.

The scale, diversity, and depth of participation in Science Summit NYC 2025 emphasise its growing position as a global convening platform for SDG acceleration. Through its inclusive design, broad reach across continents, and multidisciplinary engagement, the Summit continues to create the enabling environment required for countries and institutions to mobilise science, strengthen partnerships, and advance actionable solutions in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Track 1: One Health and Genomics for Africa–Europe Collaboration

Flagship Track 1 underscored the strategic importance of genomics, One Health, and cross-border scientific cooperation as critical drivers of global health security, precision medicine, resilient food systems, and sustainable development. The discussions highlighted the profound scientific potential of Africa's unparalleled genetic diversity, expanding biobanking capacity, and a fast-growing genomics research ecosystem. Unlocking this potential will advance not only scientific discovery but also the implementation of several SDGs, notably SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 9

(Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

Participants emphasised that long-term, equitable investment in genomic medicine and research is indispensable for addressing infectious diseases, improving pandemic preparedness, advancing personalised healthcare, and strengthening veterinary and agricultural systems. The track built on established Africa–Europe cooperation frameworks—EDCTP, the Africa–Europe Innovation Agenda, Horizon Europe, the EU Global Health Strategy, Africa CDC, and Africa's biotechnology roadmaps—showing how genomics sits at the intersection of the EU's priorities for digital innovation, health security, and scientific diplomacy.

Advancing Genomics Capacity to Deliver SDG 3 and SDG 10

A core outcome of the discussions was the reaffirmed commitment to deepen integration among EDCTP3, Africa CDC, and leading European genomic research networks, strengthening equitable access to genomic tools and data. Participants reached a broad consensus on establishing a Pan-African Genomic Data Network, a transformative initiative designed to:

- enable ethical, secure, and interoperable genomic data-sharing;
- expand and sustain biobanking infrastructure;
- strengthen clinical trial capacity;
- support national public health institutes;
- embed African institutions at the centre of global collaborations.

Such a network directly contributes to SDG 3 (strengthening capacity for early warning, risk reduction, and management of health risks), SDG 10 (reducing inequalities in access to innovation), and SDG 17 (strengthening scientific cooperation and technology transfer).

Regulatory Alignment to Accelerate SDGs

A recurring theme was the need to harmonise regulatory, data governance, and ethical standards across Africa and Europe. Participants noted that aligning AU and EU frameworks under the Africa–Europe Innovation Agenda will accelerate clinical research, facilitate genomic surveillance, and improve cross-border health responses. These efforts also support the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, the Pact for the Future, and the recommendations of the UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) on strengthening knowledge systems.

This alignment may be relevant in the context of future EU funding frameworks, including the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034) and FP10, highlighting genomics as an important area for long-term investment consideration that supports SDG-aligned innovation ecosystems.

- **One Health, Food Systems, and Climate Resilience**

Participants highlighted that genomics must be recognised as a cross-cutting enabler of:

- **resilient food systems** (SDG 2),
- **climate adaptation mechanisms** (SDG 13),
- **biodiversity preservation** (SDG 15), and
- **livestock health and biosecurity** (SDG 2.4).

Genomics-informed One Health approaches can drive improved disease surveillance, strengthen veterinary services, and support sustainable agricultural practices—critical to addressing zoonotic risks and climate-driven health threats.

Towards the World Health Assembly and SDG Reporting

The track concluded with a commitment to prepare a joint policy brief for the 2026 World Health Assembly on embedding genomics within national health systems. This aligns with the WHO's call for stronger genomic surveillance systems following COVID-19 and supports Member States' SDG reporting obligations, particularly for SDG 3 (health security) and SDG 17 (international cooperation).

SDG Alignment Summary for Track 1

SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-being:
Genomic medicine, surveillance, personalised healthcare, early-warning systems, pathogen genomics.

SDG 2 — Zero Hunger:
Livestock genetics, biosecurity, food systems resilience, and agricultural genomics.

SDG 9 — Innovation & Infrastructure:
Biobanks, research infrastructure, laboratory networks, cross-border research systems.

SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities:
Equitable access to genomic tools, capacity building, and technology transfer.

SDG 17 — Partnerships:
Africa–Europe collaboration, multilateral governance alignment, data-sharing frameworks.

Track 2: Food Security, Nutrition, and Sustainable Agriculture

Track 2 addressed one of the most urgent global priorities: building resilient, climate-smart, and nutrition-sensitive food systems capable of withstanding rising climate shocks, soil degradation, market volatility, conflict-driven disruptions, and widening inequalities. The conversations underscored the essential contribution of science, innovation, and cross-regional partnerships to achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), as well as related goals including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

The track opened with the presentation of the Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security, an emerging multi-stakeholder platform supported by AGFUND, CGIAR, and the Crop Trust. This initiative aims to accelerate large-scale action on climate-resilient agriculture, genetic resource conservation, soil regeneration, and the science-policy interface for sustainable food systems—directly contributing to SDG targets 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5.

Africa-led Science and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation

Participants emphasised the importance of strengthening **Africa-led innovation hubs** focused on agroecology, soil health, drought-resistant crops, and sustainable farming systems. These hubs were viewed as essential for:

- combining indigenous knowledge systems with advanced science;
- enabling context-specific agricultural solutions;
- scaling climate-resilient practices;
- empowering smallholder farmers, especially women and youth;
- enhancing regional scientific sovereignty;
- supporting robust seed systems and genetic diversity.

This approach directly advances SDG 2.4 (sustainable agriculture), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) by addressing the structural barriers limiting smallholder productivity and scientific leadership in the Global South.

From Research to Policy: Strengthening Governance and Climate Resilience

Discussions highlighted the need for evidence-based, science-informed policies that address climate impacts, improve nutrition governance, and strengthen agricultural resilience. Participants emphasised the importance of:

- scaling early-warning systems for climate and market shocks;
- improving soil and water management;
- integrating genomics for crop improvement;
- building national capacities for data-driven agricultural planning;
- supporting regenerative agriculture and carbon-smart farming.

These priorities directly advance SDG 13 (climate resilience), SDG 15 (ecosystem restoration), and SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production).

Aligning Global and Regional Agendas

A central outcome of the track was a shared interest in greater alignment of investments and policy efforts:

- the **UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+4)**;
- the **AU–EU Partnership on Research & Innovation**;
- the **UNCCD COP17 priorities**;
- the **Global Biodiversity Framework**;
- the findings of the **UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)**.

Coherence among these processes is essential to accelerate SDG implementation and direct financing towards interventions that demonstrate measurable improvements in:

- productivity and yields (SDG 2.3),
- climate resilience (SDG 13.1),
- biodiversity conservation (SDG 15),
- food security and nutrition (SDG 2.1),
- and equitable livelihoods for smallholders (SDG 1.4 and 5.a).
- Commitment to Joint Action for AU–EU Summit 2025

The track concluded with partners preparing a joint communiqué emphasising the importance of evidence-based approaches to agricultural policy ahead of the AU–EU Summit in **2025**. This reflects the collective determination to:

- deepen scientific cooperation;
- expand cross-border research infrastructures;
- promote sustainable land management;
- strengthen early-warning capacities;
- integrate soil regeneration and climate resilience across food systems policy;
- and highlight the importance of food security as a shared priority for Africa and Europe.

SDG Alignment Summary for Track 2

SDG 2 — Zero Hunger:

Food security, sustainable agriculture, genetic diversity, soil health, resilient farming, nutrition.

SDG 13 — Climate Action:

Climate adaptation in agriculture, early-warning systems, and nature-based solutions.

SDG 15 — Life on Land:

Agroecology, biodiversity conservation, landscape restoration, and sustainable land use.

SDG 12 — Responsible Consumption & Production:

Sustainable inputs, regenerative agriculture, reduced environmental footprints.

SDG 1, 5, 10 — Poverty Reduction, Gender Equality & Reduced Inequalities:

Empowering smallholders, women farmers, youth innovators, and rural communities.

SDG 17 — Partnerships:

Coordinated Africa–Europe collaborations, joint policy development, and shared research infrastructures.

Track 3: Capital Markets for Science, Technology & Innovation

Flagship Track 3 explored how global financial systems can be transformed to **mobilise capital for science, technology, and innovation (STI)** that directly supports the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The discussions highlighted a fundamental challenge: despite the central role of science in achieving the SDGs, investment in research and scientific infrastructure remains chronically insufficient across many regions. Traditional funding models are inadequate to meet the scale required for SDG delivery, especially in areas that demand long-term, high-risk investment such as health innovation, climate resilience, digital transformation, and food systems.

Participants emphasised that achieving **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure)**, **SDG 3 (Health)**, **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, **SDG 2 (Food Security)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships)** requires new financial instruments that can unlock private capital and crowd in institutional investment.

A New Science Finance Paradigm

A central feature of the track was the presentation of the draft **Science Finance Framework**, developed in collaboration with TÜV SÜD. This emerging model proposes:

- the creation of **science-based impact metrics**;
- verifiable indicators of SDG-relevant scientific value;
- harmonised standards to measure the societal impact of research investments;
- formal mechanisms for transparency and accountability in science financing;
- a trusted structure for investors to engage in long-term, SDG-aligned science projects.

The framework responds directly to the **UN SDG Stimulus**, the **Financing for Development (FfD4) outcomes**, and the **GSDR 2023 recommendations**, which all call for leveraging private capital to close the global SDG financing gap—estimated at trillions of dollars annually.

Blended Finance to Support SDG-related Innovation

Dialogue with development banks, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and institutional investors revealed strong interest in **blended finance** as a mechanism to derisk investment and accelerate SDG-aligned scientific infrastructure. Participants identified priority investment areas including:

- medical and genomic research platforms (SDG 3);
- digital public infrastructure and AI systems (SDG 9 & 16);
- space-based climate services (SDG 13);
- sustainable agriculture and food systems (SDG 2 & 12);
- youth and skills development in STEM fields (SDG 4 & 8).

The track emphasised that accelerating science innovation requires a **whole-of-system approach**, combining:

- public investment (governments, EU, AU, national science agencies);
- multilateral finance (World Bank, AfDB, IsDB, EIB, EIF);
- philanthropy;
- private capital markets.

This aligns with **SDG 17.3**, which calls for mobilisation of financial resources from multiple sources to support sustainable development.

Towards a New Africa–Europe Innovation Investment Platform

Participants proposed creating an **Africa–Europe Innovation Investment Platform** to connect:

- researchers and innovators,
- development banks and institutional investors,
- ministries of finance and science,
- private-sector technology partners,
- philanthropic and mission-driven investors.

The platform would:

- strengthen the pipeline of investable SDG-aligned science projects;
- improve matchmaking across the innovation ecosystem;
- support feasibility studies and investment-readiness support;
- build capacity for African and European institutions;
- enhance absorption capacity for scientific infrastructure investment;

- provide a marketplace for blended finance instruments.

This platform directly advances **SDG 17 (multi-stakeholder partnerships)** and **SDG 9.5 (strengthening scientific research capacity).**

Positioning Science Financing in the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034)

A major outcome of the track was broad agreement to highlight the importance of sustained investment in science within future EU funding frameworks, including discussions related to the MFF (2028–2034). This would formalise science as a strategic investment priority, funding:

- research infrastructures,
- technology platforms,
- innovation ecosystems,
- science–policy interfaces,
- cross-border scientific cooperation,
- and Africa–Europe STI partnerships.

Contributing to ongoing reflections on the role of scientific financing within EU funding frameworks would also support future alignment with **FP10** and ensure that capital markets can leverage public investment for SDG impact.

SDG Alignment Summary for Track 3

SDG 9 — Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure:

Investments in scientific infrastructure, labs, research platforms, data systems.

SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals:

Multistakeholder investment platforms, blended finance, global collaboration.

SDG 3 — Good Health & Well-being:

Financing for medical research, genomics, vaccines, diagnostics, digital health.

SDG 13 — Climate Action:

Financing climate services, space-based monitoring, resilience technologies.

SDG 2 & SDG 12 — Food Systems & Sustainable Production:

Innovation in agriculture, soil health, early-warning systems, sustainable inputs.

SDG 4 & 8 — Education & Economic Growth:

Human capital development, STEM skills, innovation-driven growth.

Track 4: Digital Infrastructure, AI & Data for Development

Flagship Track 4 examined the expanding role of **digital public infrastructure (DPI), artificial intelligence (AI), and data governance** in shaping inclusive, resilient, and high-performing systems across health, education, finance, environmental management, and public administration. The discussions demonstrated that digital cooperation is not simply a technical agenda—it is a foundational enabler of the **Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure)**, **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions)**, **SDG 17 (Global Partnerships)**, and cross-cutting goals related to **health (SDG 3)**, **education (SDG 4)**, **climate resilience (SDG 13)**, and **inequality reduction (SDG 10)**.

The track showcased multiple examples of DPI systems that have transformed service delivery by making digital identity, secure payments, registries, and interoperable data platforms widely accessible. These models illustrate how countries can leapfrog towards digital inclusivity while laying the foundation for innovation-driven economic growth and improved public trust.

Building a Digital Science Policy Interface

Recognising the growing need for coherence between scientific innovation, digital governance, and regulatory frameworks, participants agreed to establish a **Digital Science Policy Taskforce**. Its objectives include:

- connecting academia, industry, and policymakers;
- aligning digital innovation with ethical and societal safeguards;
- support the role of scientific evidence in informing digital regulation;
- accelerating translation of advanced research (AI, big data, IoT) into public services;
- enabling equitable access to AI-driven tools in low-resource settings.

This taskforce supports **SDG 9 (innovation ecosystems)** and **SDG 17 (multi-stakeholder cooperation)** by strengthening the science–policy interface that underpins digital transformation.

Digital Sovereignty and Strengthening African Research Capacity

The track placed strong emphasis on empowering African institutions through digital sovereignty and fair access to data. Participants emphasised that African-led data infrastructures and open science platforms are essential for:

- locally governed research data;
- trust-based international collaboration;
- Africa's growing genomics, climate, and agricultural research ecosystems;
- enabling fair participation in global digital and AI innovation.

This directly contributes to **SDG 10 (reduced inequalities)**, **SDG 4 (skills development)**, **SDG 17.18 (capacity building for high-quality data)**, and **SDG 9.5 (enhancing scientific research capacity)**.

Track 5: Space for Sustainable Development

Flagship Track 5 explored the rapidly growing contribution of **space science, satellite technologies, and geospatial data** to global sustainable development. The discussions demonstrated that space-based tools are no longer the domain of a small number of countries—they are now indispensable instruments for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, **SDG 2 (Food Security)**, **SDG 15 (Life on Land)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships)**.

The track marked the launch of the **"Space for All" initiative**, an ambitious effort to democratise access to satellite data, Earth observation tools, geospatial analytics, and astronomy resources. Participants affirmed that equitable access to space-derived data is essential to strengthening scientific capacity, improving decision-making, supporting national SDG monitoring, and expanding the benefits of the growing space economy—particularly for countries in Africa, Latin America, and other underserved regions.

Democratising Access to Space as an SDG Enabler

The track emphasised that accessible, high-quality satellite data can transform how countries monitor and respond to critical development challenges, including:

- climate adaptation and early-warning systems (SDG 13.1 & 13.3),
- food production and soil health (SDG 2.3 & 2.4),

- biodiversity assessment and land-use management (SDG 15.1–15.4),
- urban growth and resilient city planning (SDG 11.3),
- disaster risk reduction and crisis response (SDG 11.5),
- water resource management (SDG 6.5),
- mapping of emissions and supporting net-zero strategies (SDG 13).

Empowering countries to use space-data systems strengthens **SDG 17.18**, which calls for enhanced capacity to produce high-quality, timely, and reliable data for sustainable development.

Africa–Europe Partnerships in Space Science

The track showcased expanding cooperation between the **African Astronomical Society (AfAS)**, **KOTI**, and leading European organisations. Their joint research, infrastructure development, and mobility programmes aim to:

- expand astronomy and astrophysics capabilities;
- support the design and use of next-generation telescopes;
- develop geospatial research centres and observatories;
- promote scientific training and technical exchange;
- empower African universities to host and lead cutting-edge space research.

Participants recognised that such partnerships not only strengthen science ecosystems (SDG 9.5) but also build long-term human capital and scientific sovereignty for Africa (SDG 10, SDG 4.4, SDG 17).

Space Applications for Climate, Agriculture, and Disaster Resilience

Speakers emphasised the central role of space-based data in managing cross-cutting SDG challenges. Examples included:

- **SDG 2 (Food Security):** crop mapping, soil moisture monitoring, drought forecasting, livestock surveillance.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** carbon accounting, forest and wildfire monitoring, climate modelling, early-warning systems.

- **SDG 15 (Life on Land):** biodiversity mapping, deforestation detection, desertification monitoring (aligned with UNCCD priorities).
- **SDG 11 (Cities):** urban heat island mapping, smart transport planning, pollution tracking.

The track highlighted that space science is one of the most powerful accelerators of climate-informed decision-making, supporting the **UNFCCC**, **UNCCD**, **CBD**, and the **Global Biodiversity Framework**.

Building the Next Generation of Space Scientists

To ensure long-term benefits, participants proposed establishing a **Space Science Education Network** connecting African and European:

- observatories,
- universities,
- space agencies,
- training centres,
- research infrastructures.

This network will support curriculum development, technical training, internships, research placements, and joint supervision programmes—directly contributing to **SDG 4 (quality education)**, **SDG 8 (decent work and skills)**, and **SDG 9 (research infrastructure and innovation)**.

Integrating Space Science into SDG Monitoring and Early-Warning Systems

The track concluded with broad agreement to more systematically integrate Earth observation data into national and regional SDG monitoring frameworks. This supports:

- more accurate climate-risk assessments (SDG 13),
- improved agricultural, land, and biodiversity monitoring (SDG 2, 15),
- stronger data systems for policy implementation (SDG 17.18),
- enhanced national capacity for evidence-based decision-making (SDG 16.6).

SDG Alignment Summary for Track 5

SDG 13 — Climate Action:
Climate monitoring, carbon accounting, disaster risk reduction, early-warning systems.

SDG 2 — Zero Hunger:
Agricultural mapping, soil health monitoring, drought and pest forecasting.

SDG 15 — Life on Land:
Biodiversity tracking, deforestation detection, land degradation monitoring.

SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities:
Urban planning, smart mobility, pollution mapping, resilient infrastructure.

SDG 9 — Innovation:
Space research, observatories, satellite infrastructure, geospatial platforms.

SDG 17 — Partnerships:
Africa–Europe and global cooperation for space science and data sharing.

Track 6: Women's Health, Leadership & Gender-Inclusive STEM

Flagship Track 6 placed a critical spotlight on **women's health, gender equality, and the structural transformation of STEM ecosystems** as essential drivers of sustainable development. The discussions reinforced that gender equality is not only a moral imperative—it is also a foundational accelerator of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, **SDG 3 (Health & Well-being)**, **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth)**, **SDG 9 (Innovation)**, **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships)**.

A major milestone of the track was the endorsement of the **Women in Health Science and Innovation Network**, a new platform designed to elevate women's leadership in research, strengthen gender-sensitive innovation ecosystems, and prioritise women's health needs in policy agendas across Africa, Europe, and the global scientific community.

Strengthening Women's Health and Closing Evidence Gaps (SDG 3 & SDG 5)

Participants stressed that advancing women's health requires a systematic approach to correcting long-standing evidence gaps in:

- maternal health,
- non-communicable diseases,
- sexual and reproductive health,
- mental health,
- ageing and chronic disease,
- data on women-specific health conditions,
- and sex- and gender-disaggregated research.

These gaps hinder the achievement of **SDG 3** targets and perpetuate health inequities, particularly in low-resource settings. Strengthening women's health research is essential for delivering **SDG 3.1 (maternal mortality)**, **SDG 3.7 (reproductive health)**, and **SDG 3.8 (universal health coverage)**.

Participants highlighted that meaningful progress requires:

- improved representation of women in clinical research;
- increased investment in research on conditions disproportionately affecting women;
- inclusion of women's perspectives in R&D and regulatory processes;
- improved data collection and gender-sensitive indicators across health systems.
- **Gender Equity in Science, Research & Innovation (SDG 5, SDG 4, SDG 9)**

Speakers emphasised the need to dismantle systemic barriers that prevent women and girls from fully participating in science and innovation:

- underrepresentation in STEM education and advanced degrees;
- limited access to laboratories, digital tools, and scientific networks;
- unequal career progression, pay gaps, and leadership barriers;
- lower visibility in policymaking and research governance.

Participants stressed that these obstacles reduce scientific diversity, limit knowledge production, and slow innovation—directly impacting progress across all SDGs.

Strengthening gender equity in STI will support:

- **SDG 5.5** (women's full participation in leadership),
- **SDG 4.3** (equal access to technical and tertiary education),

- **SDG 9.5** (strengthening scientific research capacity).

Building Global Alliances for Women's Health Innovation

The track emphasised the importance of building cross-regional alliances with organisations such as:

- SWHR (Society for Women's Health Research),
- ECHAlliance,
- African women-led academic and research institutions,
- health innovation networks across Europe and Africa,
- youth- and women-led digital innovation initiatives.

These partnerships will amplify collective action, expand mentorship opportunities, strengthen research governance, and ensure that women's voices shape the future of global health innovation—advancing **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.

Embedding Gender Metrics into AU & EU Research Frameworks

Participants highlighted the importance of integrating **gender-sensitive metrics** into:

- AU and EU research funding frameworks,
- Horizon Europe and FP10 programming,
- the Africa–Europe Innovation Agenda,
- regulatory and ethics review systems,
- institutional evaluation and performance frameworks.

Embedding gender accountability mechanisms ensures that funding decisions, data governance, and scientific practices reflect the needs and experiences of women and girls—advancing **SDG 5.c (policy reform for gender equality)** and **SDG 16.7 (inclusive decision-making)**.

Mentorship, Leadership, and Cross-Continental Career Development

The track concluded with the launch of new mentorship and fellowship programmes connecting early-career women scientists across Africa and Europe. These initiatives will:

- foster leadership pipelines in STEM fields;
- strengthen cross-border scientific collaboration;
- enhance mobility and exchange;
- support women-led research groups and start-ups;
- promote the visibility of women innovators.

Such initiatives contribute directly to **SDG 4.4 (skills for employment)**, **SDG 8.5 (equal opportunity in labour markets)**, and **SDG 10.2 (empowerment and inclusion).**

SDG Alignment Summary for Track 6

SDG 5 — Gender Equality:
Women's leadership, STEM access, equitable governance, gender-sensitive R&D.

SDG 3 — Good Health & Well-being:
Closing evidence gaps, women's health research, inclusive clinical trials.

SDG 4 — Quality Education:
STEM training, mentorship, cross-continental learning pathways.

SDG 8 — Decent Work & Economic Growth:
Empowering women innovators, leadership pipelines, equitable employment.

SDG 9 — Innovation & Infrastructure:
Gender-inclusive research ecosystems, digital and scientific capacity building.

SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities:
Equitable access to data, labs, networks, opportunities, and funding.

SDG 17 — Partnerships:
Global alliances for women's health and gender-inclusive scientific cooperation.

Track 7: Youth, Education & Skills for Global Futures

Flagship Track 7 placed young people at the centre of global science diplomacy, emphasising that **youth leadership, skills development, and inclusive education pathways** are essential to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Youth representatives from more than 30 countries called for transformational approaches to science, innovation, and governance—highlighting that meaningful youth participation

must extend far beyond consultation and become embedded in policy design, implementation, and review.

The track underscored that the energy, creativity, and urgency of young innovators serve as powerful accelerators of **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure)**, **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**, **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships)**.

Co-Created Innovation Programmes for Sustainable Development (SDG 4 & SDG 9)

Participants highlighted the need for **co-created innovation programmes** bridging science, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. These programmes should:

- equip youth with 21st-century skills in AI, digital public infrastructure, genomics, bioinformatics, clean energy, and sustainable agriculture;
- strengthen research and innovation ecosystems in low- and middle-income countries;
- ensure youth participation in policy discussions related to data governance, health, digital transformation, and climate resilience;
- promote inclusive access to STEM fields for girls and underrepresented communities.

Such initiatives directly advance **SDG 4.4 (skills for employment)** and **SDG 9.5 (strengthening scientific research capacity)** by creating opportunities for young scientists, engineers, and innovators to engage in real-world problem-solving.

Science Diplomacy Youth Council: Institutionalising Youth Voices (SDG 16 & SDG 17)

A major achievement of the track was the launch of the **Science Diplomacy Youth Council**, a platform that will provide structured, ongoing input into UN and EU policy discussions. The Council is designed to ensure that youth perspectives are systematically integrated into global dialogues on:

- digital transformation and AI governance;
- climate adaptation and environmental resilience;
- global health innovation;
- food systems and agriculture;

- urban futures and sustainable cities.

This Council strengthens **SDG 16.7 (inclusive decision-making)** and **SDG 17 (multi-stakeholder partnerships)** by ensuring youth perspectives are reflected in global science-governance processes.

Building Future Skills Through University–Industry–Policy Collaboration (SDG 4, 8 & 9)

The track highlighted the importance of new partnerships between universities, industry, and scientific organisations to expand **future skills training**, including:

- green and digital skills;
- AI and machine learning;
- bioinformatics and computational biology;
- clean and renewable energy technologies;
- data stewardship and open science practices;
- climate modelling and Earth observation.

Participants emphasised that these training programmes are essential for building **future-ready workforces** and unlocking new employment opportunities that directly support SDG 8 (inclusive economic growth) and SDG 9 (innovation ecosystems).

Youth Leadership for Climate, Health & Food Systems (SDG 2, 3, 13 & 15)

Young leaders presented solutions addressing climate resilience, food security, public health, and biodiversity conservation. Their contributions highlighted the need for:

- youth-led climate resilience hubs (SDG 13);
- innovation in sustainable agriculture and nutrition (SDG 2);
- community-driven health initiatives and digital health tools (SDG 3);
- local biodiversity monitoring and conservation (SDG 15).

Participants underscored that youth are critical drivers of local action—turning global SDG frameworks into community-level transformation.

Embedding Youth Priorities in the Science Action Declaration 2025

Reflecting the Summit's commitment to inclusive governance, youth delegates were invited to contribute directly to the refinement of the **Science Action Declaration 2025**, ensuring that youth perspectives are represented in:

- digital cooperation,
- responsible research and innovation,
- climate adaptation policy,
- women's health and gender equity,
- science financing,
- and global partnerships.

This inclusion strengthens **SDG 17.16 (enhancing global partnerships)** and reinforces the Summit's emphasis on intergenerational collaboration.

Showcasing Youth Innovation at Science Summit 2026

Looking ahead, partners agreed to feature youth-led solutions prominently at the **Science Summit NYC 2026**, providing a global platform for young innovators to demonstrate how their technologies, research, and community-based initiatives advance the SDGs.

This commitment further supports **SDG 4 (education), SDG 8 (economic opportunity), and SDG 10 (equal empowerment)**, transforming youth engagement from dialogue into action.

SDG Alignment Summary for Track 7

SDG 4 — Quality Education:
STEM education, future skills training, digital and green skills.

SDG 8 — Decent Work & Economic Growth:
Youth entrepreneurship, innovation-driven employment, skills for the green and digital economy.

SDG 9 — Innovation:
Youth-led R&D, university–industry partnerships, participation in digital governance.

SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities:
Inclusivity for underrepresented youth, gender equality in STEM, participation in policymaking.

SDG 13 — Climate Action:
Youth-led climate resilience initiatives, data-driven adaptation strategies.

SDG 17 — Partnerships:
Science Diplomacy Youth Council, cross-border research collaboration, intergenerational governance.

4 Policy & Practice Outcomes

The Science Summit NYC 2025 generated a range of operational outcomes that will support ongoing collaboration and contribute to the evolution of global science systems in the year ahead. These outcomes reflect the Summit's continued role as a platform connecting scientific evidence, multilateral dialogue, and financing discussions in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A number of statements, policy briefs, and joint declarations were developed and shared throughout the week. These documents synthesise perspectives on key themes such as genomics, digital cooperation, food systems, women's health, climate resilience, science financing, and space science. They are intended to contribute to broader international discussions and may be of relevance to policymakers, research institutions, and development partners.

These science-based contributions support progress toward SDG 17 (Partnerships), SDG 16 (effective institutions), SDG 9 (innovation), SDG 3 (health), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 2 (food security), reinforcing the importance of strong connections between science, policy, and finance.

1. Contributing to Multilateral Dialogue (SDG 17 & SDG 16)

The Summit provided a platform for exchange aligned with a number of ongoing international processes, including:

- the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM),
- the UN Global Digital Compact,
- the UN Pact for the Future,
- the Financing for Development (FfD4) process,
- follow-up discussions related to the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR),
- and broader international dialogue on digital governance, health systems, and climate resilience.

At the European and regional levels, Summit discussions may offer relevant perspectives for future research, innovation, and funding conversations, including those related to FP10 and the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034). African partners are similarly engaging with these insights in the context of AU and AUDA-NEPAD strategies.

These exchanges contribute to greater coherence, shared understanding, and identification of opportunities for collaboration in support of SDG implementation.

2. New Partnerships and Collaborative Initiatives (SDG 17)

The Summit facilitated the announcement of new collaborative initiatives and partnership intentions across areas such as:

- research infrastructure development,
- digital public infrastructure and open science,
- data governance and technology exchange,
- youth engagement and education,
- women's health and inclusive innovation,
- climate services and Earth observation,
- food systems and soil health,
- and science financing approaches.

These collaborations bring together governments, research institutions, development organisations, philanthropic actors, and private-sector partners. Many include defined areas of cooperation and planned follow-up activities, supporting continued progress beyond the Summit.

3. Establishment of Working Groups and Networks (SDG 17 & SDG 9)

To support continuity, several working groups and networks were initiated, including:

- the Digital Science Policy Taskforce,
- the Pan-African Genomic Data Network planning group,
- the Science Diplomacy Youth Council,
- the Women in Health Science and Innovation Network,
- the Space Science Education Network,

- and the Science Finance Framework Steering Committee.

These groups are expected to develop outputs such as policy briefs, technical recommendations, joint proposals, and pilot initiatives. Their role is to facilitate ongoing collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity building in support of scientific ecosystems and partnerships.

4. Strengthening Evidence-Informed Approaches (SDG 16 & SDG 17)

Across all tracks, participants emphasised the importance of evidence-informed decision-making supported by:

- interoperable data systems,
- Earth observation and geospatial platforms,
- genomic surveillance capacity,
- open science infrastructure,
- SDG-aligned data stewardship models,
- and strengthened national statistical systems.

These priorities align with global efforts to improve the availability and quality of data for sustainable development and support more informed policy and planning processes.

5. Advancing Dialogue on Science Financing (SDG 9, SDG 13, SDG 3, SDG 17)

Discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening financing approaches for science, technology, and innovation. Key areas of ongoing work include:

- further development and exploration of the Science Finance Framework,
- consideration of science-based impact metrics,
- exploration of blended finance approaches,
- and continued dialogue around mechanisms to support investment in SDG-relevant innovation.

Participants also highlighted the importance of sustained investment in scientific infrastructure and innovation ecosystems, including in the context of future international and regional funding frameworks.

5 Conclusion

Science Summit NYC 2025 highlighted the role of science not only as a source of knowledge, but also as a contributor to practical efforts supporting the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. Across its thematic areas, the Summit provided a platform to showcase how research, innovation, financing, data, and international cooperation are being applied in areas such as health, food security, climate resilience, digital transformation, gender equality, youth engagement, and global partnerships.

The outcomes of the Summit reflect a continued evolution from dialogue toward implementation. A range of initiatives—including declarations, taskforces, networks, investment approaches, and cross-regional collaborations—were presented, offering examples of ongoing efforts that may contribute to sustained action in 2025–2026. These developments illustrate opportunities for alignment, capacity strengthening, resource mobilisation, and the application of evidence-based approaches across different contexts.

Looking ahead to Science Summit NYC 2026, the focus remains on maintaining continuity, supporting transparency, and following ongoing developments related to existing commitments. As a platform, the Science Summit will continue to provide space for exchange among stakeholders working at the intersection of science, policy, and finance, contributing to shared understanding and visibility of efforts aligned with the 2030 Agenda.