



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York



THE WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
for the advancement of science in developing countries



in collaboration with the Group of Friends on Science for Action

The Research and Innovation Ecosystem of *Friuli Venezia Giulia*, Italy Trieste as a Science Hub for Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development

16 October 2026, 13.15 – 14.30

Conference Room 8, United Nations Headquarters, New York

The **Italian Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia** hosts one of Europe's most internationalized science and innovation ecosystems. Centred around the city of **Trieste**, the regional ecosystem brings together international scientific organizations, universities, research infrastructures, innovation centres and public institutions committed to advancing multilateral scientific cooperation, science diplomacy, and science-based solutions in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event is designed to showcase the model as **an international ecosystem where scientific excellence, international cooperation and science diplomacy are closely interconnected**.

After the opening remarks from the co-Chair of the Group of Friends on Science for Action and the UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, **Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia**, will take the floor as keynote speaker, with the objective to present the distinctive features of the Trieste ecosystem, illustrating how the concentration of internationally renowned scientific institutions, together with organizations operating under the auspices of the United Nations has created a unique environment where scientific research contributes not only to knowledge and innovation, but also to international cooperation, capacity-building and sustainable development.

Particular attention will be given to the collaborative framework established among scientific institutions, international organizations and public authorities, including the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. This partnership represents an effective example of multi-level governance supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and demonstrates how investment in science can generate tangible economic, social and environmental benefits at both local and global levels.

The **Spotlight video** will provide an overview of the **Science and Innovation System of Friuli Venezia Giulia** ecosystem and its institutional and scientific assets.

The programme will continue with a discussion - introduced by **Alessia Rosolen**, **Regional Minister** for Labour, Education, Research and University - by representatives of the leading international scientific organizations based in Trieste, including the **International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)**, the **International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)**, The **World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)**, the **InterAcademy Partnership (IAP)**, and the **Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)**.

Drawing on their respective mandates and experiences, the panellists will discuss the contribution of their institutions to science diplomacy and international cooperation, highlighting concrete examples of how scientific research supports sustainable development and addresses global challenges. The discussion will cover, among other topics, the advancement of women in science, frontier research and emerging technologies, scientific capacity-building, partnerships with the Global South, and collaborative approaches to global priorities, including health, energy and sustainable development.

PROGRAM

Moderator: Giorgio Marrapodi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

Welcome Remarks

- **Harish Parvathaneni**, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, co-Chair of the Group of Friends on Science for Action
- **Quintin Chou-Lambert**, Deputy to the Tech Envoy and Head of AI Policy, UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies

Keynote Speech

Trieste as an International Platform for Science Diplomacy and Global Cooperation

Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia

Spotlight video: *The Friuli Venezia Giulia Science and Innovation Ecosystem*

Recorded speech by **Khaled El-Enany**, Director General of UNESCO (TBC)

Remarks by **Alessia Rosolen**, Regional Minister for Labour, Education, Research and University

- **Atish Dabholkar**, Director of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)
- **Marianna Maculan**, Chief of External Relations at International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)
- **Romain Murenzi**, former Executive Director of TWAS, currently a faculty member at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Massachusetts (TWAS, OWSD)
- **Jo Boufford**, Chair of the IAP Working Group on Urban Health and Lead of the Young Physician Leaders Programme (IAP)

Closing remarks by the moderator