



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

In December 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted a resolution to establish an annual International Day to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology communities. The resolution proclaimed 11 February of each year the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

The U.N. welcomed the efforts of several contributing bodies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](#)), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ([UN Women](#)), the International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)) and other relevant organizations that support and promote the access of women and girls and their participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, training and research activities at all levels.

A High-Level Forum commemorating the very first observance of the day, organized by The Royal Academy of Science International Trust ([RASIT](#)), in close collaboration with [Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) and the [Division for Social Policy and Development](#), took place on Thursday, 11 February 2016 at the UN Headquarters in Conference Room 1.

Report Submitted by Constance Sobon Sensor, STTI United Nations Liaison

Summary: The focus of the event was to promote the achievements of women in all areas of science.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science will help institutions at all levels, in the context of a multi-stakeholder approach, to review, analyze, and enhance different approaches aimed at promoting the work of women in science and of encouraging girls to enter the sciences as a lifetime profession. By commemorating the Day at UN Headquarters, capacity building will be generated at the local, national, sub-regional, and regional levels. Good practices and lessons learned can be promoted with the hope of replication in other areas.

The achievements of women in all areas of science have been overlooked compared to those of their male counterparts. This is a serious obstacle to achieving gender equality, since the underlying reasons for the situation are multi-faceted. A better understanding will be reached when we see how much our society improves as a whole when women and girls are educated and can contribute profitably to the development of society. It is intended that through the commemoration of the first International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Heads of State and Heads of Government who are women and are scientists will strengthen their own links to women and girls in their countries and globally. The concept of "He for She," was introduced, where men and boys pledge to support women and girls who dream of contributing to the betterment of society and achieving the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Panelists presented many perspectives focused on successfully overcoming barriers to promoting women in science, with good models for education and

the workplace. A unique concept presented was that men are just as capable as women of being caregivers for children, and traditional ideas of the woman as primary caregiver for children should not impede the promotion or progress of women's careers in science.