

Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable (CSAR), 2024 Proceedings and Chair Summary

Paris, France, 6 September 2024

Chief Science Advisers and nominated representatives of countries and international organisations gathered on 06 September 2024 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France and online for the 2024 edition of the Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable¹ to discuss "fostering open science, bridging knowledge asymmetry, and building science advice capacity globally".

The discussion highlighted the growing importance of science and technology in tackling the complex global challenges of our time. Many of these crises and challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, energy, health, food security, and the rise of misinformation, are deeply interconnected and extend beyond both sectoral and geographic boundaries. As these challenges evolve, participants suggested that so should our strategies, underpinned by robust science and evidence, so that they remain adaptable and resilient in the face of uncertainty.

The participants advised that a synergistic approach – across disciplines, sectors, countries, knowledge systems, and international organisations – would help develop sustainable solutions to these complex global challenges. For this, addressing existing knowledge inequities and prioritising open science are crucial towards enhancing science advice capacity and scientific literacy globally. There is a critical need for countries to strengthen their national science advisory systems. The participants recognised that diversity in science advice mechanisms provides an opportunity in terms of inclusive participation. The participants acknowledged that a meaningful synergy among science advice mechanisms would strengthen evidence-informed decision-making that reflects diverse perspectives and local contexts.

The interventions emphasised that it is important to recognise the potential impact and dual nature of disruptive technologies on knowledge creation and dissemination, as well as in decision-making processes. The discussion highlighted that while encouraging the use of advanced technologies to address knowledge disparities globally, it is critical to stress the importance of adhering to ethical and legal considerations, human rights, and best practices when developing and utilising these technologies within knowledge systems.

The participants recommend advancing the interconnected goals of promoting open science², addressing knowledge disparities worldwide, and strengthening global science advice capacity. These ideas align with the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, 2024–2033³

The participants thanked UNESCO and India for facilitating the 2024 edition of this roundtable, including a discussion on potential pathways for continuation. The participants welcomed South Africa's commitment to continue the Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable in 2025 with support from UNESCO and other countries, regional bodies, and international organisations.

¹Annexure I – List of the Heads of the Delegations of Participating Countries and International Organisations.

² UNESCO OS Recommendation (2021): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381148>

³ International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, 2024–2033
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4020322?ln=en&v=pdf>

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Annexure I – List of the Heads of the Delegations of Participating Countries and International Organisations.

Countries	Heads of the Delegation
Australia	Dr Catherine Foley Chief Scientist of Australia
Botswana	Ms. Lesego Thamae Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communication, Knowledge and Technology of Botswana
Brazil	Dr. Andrea Brito Latgé Secretary of Strategic Policies and Programs Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil
Canada	Dr. Geneviève Tanguay Deputy Chief Science Advisor of Canada
Denmark	Mr. Thomas Trøst Hansen Head of the Secretariat, Office for the Danish Council for Research and Innovation Policy
Egypt	Prof. Dr. Gina Samy El Feky President of the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT), Egypt
European Union	Dr. Liliana Pasecinic Deputy Head of Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Union
France	Dr. Thierry Damerval President, Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR), France
Germany	Prof. Gerald Haug President National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Germany
India	Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India
Indonesia	Dr. Ir. Boediastoeti Ontowirjo Deputy Chair for Research and Innovation Policy, National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)
Ireland	Dr Ciarán Seoighe Deputy CEO of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland
Italy	Prof. Maria Chiara Carrozza President, National Research Council (CNR), Italy
Japan	Mr. Ohno Takahiro First Secretary, Embassy of Japan, France
Kenya	Prof. Walter O. Oyawa Director, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), Kenya
Latvia	Dr. Lauma Muižniece Director, Latvian Council of Science
Netherlands	Prof. Wiebe Bijker Professor and former Chair NWO-WOTRO, Netherlands
New Zealand	Dr Gill Jolly Chief Science Advisor, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand
Norway	Prof. Mari Sundli Tveit Chief Executive, The Research Council of Norway
Panama	Dr. Mrs. Paulina Franceschi Acting Director, Regional Center for Innovation in Vaccines and Biopharmaceuticals, Panama
Portugal	Prof. Maria Madalena dos Santos Alves President Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal
Republic of Cyprus	Dr. Demetris Skourides Chief Scientist, Republic of Cyprus
Russia	Dr. Irina Kuklina Executive Director of the International Centre for Innovation in Science, Technology and Education (ICISTE), Russia

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Saudi Arabia	Dr Hanı Choudhry Vice Governor, Research, Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA), Saudi Arabia
Senegal	Prof. Madiagne Diallo Fellow, Senegalese National Academy of Sciences
South Africa	Dr. Mlungisi Cele Head, National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), South Africa
Spain	Dr. Josep Lobera Director, National Office for Science Advice, Government of Spain
Tunisia	Prof. Hafedh Abdelmelek Chairman of the Department of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts
United Kingdom	Prof. Charlotte Watts Chief Scientific Adviser UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
United States	Mr. Kei Koizumi Principal Deputy Director for Science, Society, and Policy, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
International Organisations	Heads of the Delegation
International Science Council	Sir Peter Gluckman President, International Science Council
International Network of Government Science Advice	Prof Rémi Quirion Chair, International Network of Government Science Advice and Chief Science Advisor of Quebec
The World Academy of Sciences	Prof. Quarraisha Abdool Karim President, The World Academy of Science
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	Dr. Alessandra Colecchia Head of Science and Technology Policy, OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation
United Nations Environment Programme	Dr Andrea Hinwood Chief Scientist and United Nations Environment Programme
UN Secretary General-Scientific Advisory Board	Ms. Ayaka Suzuki Director, Strategic Planning and Monitoring Unit Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Dr. Lidia Brito Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO
World Health Organization	Sir Jeremy Farrar Chief Scientist, WHO
