

2026 Global Conference of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD)

Thematic Session #17

The Arganeraie as a Model of Science in Action for Sustainable Development: Innovation, International Cooperation and Fair Access to Genetic Resources

Date: 17 July 2026

Time: 15:55–17:15 (Official Programme)

Venue: Room VI, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

Format: Hybrid Session (In-person & online via UNESCO Zoom Platform)

Short Description of the Event

The Moroccan Arganeraie is internationally recognized as an outstanding example of how science, biodiversity, traditional knowledge and innovation jointly contribute to sustainable development. This thematic session will gather scientists, policy-makers and international experts to discuss biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions, equitable access to genetic resources under the Nagoya Protocol, women's empowerment and international scientific cooperation within the framework of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development.

1. Background and Objectives

The International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033) recognizes science as a key driver for achieving the SDGs by strengthening the interface between science, policy and society.

The Moroccan Arganeraie, designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, represents a unique model where scientific research, biodiversity conservation, innovation, traditional knowledge and local development interact. Decades of interdisciplinary research have contributed to sustainable resource management, value-chain development, climate resilience and women's economic empowerment.

Objectives:

- Present the Arganeraie as an international model of Science in Action.
- Highlight the contribution of research to biodiversity conservation.
- Promote nature-based solutions and traditional knowledge.
- Discuss fair access to genetic resources under the Nagoya Protocol.
- Strengthen North–South and South–South cooperation.
- Foster dialogue among researchers, institutions and civil society.

2. Draft Agenda

Time (Paris)	Programme
15:55–16:00	Welcome Address ▪ Prof. Badr Eddine Kartah President, Averroes Foundation for the Promotion of Scientific Research, Innovation and Sustainable Development (Morocco)
16:00–16:05	Introduction, Context Setting and Moderation ▪ Prof. Lalla Amina Ouzaouit (Moderator) Mohammed V University in Rabat / Averroes Foundation (Morocco)
16:05–17:00	High-Level Panel Discussion ▪ Prof. Hanae El Monfalouti Mohammed V University in Rabat / Averroes Foundation (Morocco) ▪ Prof. Zoubida Charrouf President, Ibn Al Baytar Association (AIB), Morocco Mohammed V University in Rabat ▪ Ms. Celina Rocquet Africa & Beauty International Federation (FIAB), France ▪ Ms. Saida El Jai (Remote Intervention) National Focal Point for the Nagoya Protocol Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Kingdom of Morocco ▪ Mr. Ali Benrayane SDI Global Consult – Former United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Expert ▪ Dr. Marc Olivier (Remote Intervention) International Expert, Burkina Faso

Time (Paris)	Programme
17:00–17:10	Interactive Discussion with Participants Open dialogue between speakers and participants on biodiversity conservation, scientific innovation, equitable access to genetic resources, nature-based solutions and sustainable development.
17:10–17:13	Reading of the Paris Declaration Official reading of the Paris Declaration on the Sustainable Governance of Genetic Resources and Sustainable Development.
17:13–17:15	Key Messages and Closing Remarks Summary of the main recommendations by the Moderator, followed by acknowledgements and the official closing of the session.

3. Expected Outcomes

The session will produce recommendations on integrating science, biodiversity conservation, traditional knowledge and nature-based solutions into sustainable development policies. It will strengthen international scientific cooperation, encourage new partnerships, promote responsible governance of genetic resources under the Nagoya Protocol, and contribute to the objectives of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development.

4. Contact Person

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