

PROGRAM BOOKLET

ANSO-COMSATS-TWAS

Conference on

A Sustainable Future for All Living Species on Planet Earth

13 - 15 October 2026 | Serena Hotel, Islamabad

Endorsed as an Official Activity of International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD) 2024-2033, led by UNESCO

Dear Participants,

We are delighted to welcome you to the ANSO-COMSATS-TWAS Conference on **"A Sustainable Future for All Living Species on Planet Earth"**, jointly organized by The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), and the University of Trieste (Università degli Studi di Trieste), Italy.

The Conference is funded by the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO) under the CAS-ANSO Conference Grant Programme, with the sponsorship of TWAS, and is endorsed as an **Official Activity of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD) 2024–2033**, led by UNESCO.

The increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and ecosystem stress underscore the urgent need for integrated and collaborative approaches to sustainable development. These interconnected challenges have far-reaching implications for human security, social cohesion, economic stability, and environmental well-being, particularly in developing countries and across the Belt and Road Regions, where development imperatives increasingly intersect with mounting environmental pressures.

Addressing these complex and interrelated challenges requires stronger linkages between science, policy, and society, complemented by enhanced regional and international scientific cooperation. Against this backdrop, the Conference provides a strategic platform for advancing scientific collaboration, facilitating knowledge exchange, strengthening capacities, and promoting interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability.

To ensure a productive and engaging Conference experience, participants are kindly requested to observe the following:

- **Punctuality:** Please arrive at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start of each session. In case of absence, kindly inform the Conference Organizing Committee at least 24 hours in advance.

- **Session Etiquette:** Please keep electronic devices on silent mode and minimize disruptions during presentations and discussions.

- **Interactive Engagement:** Participants are encouraged to actively contribute to discussions while maintaining respectful dialogue and appreciating diverse academic perspectives.

We look forward to your active participation and contributions to the Conference and hope that the deliberations will foster meaningful exchange, new collaborations, and practical pathways towards a sustainable future.

We wish you an inspiring and productive Conference experience.

Sincerely,
Conference Organizing Committee

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About The Conference

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and ecosystem stress underscore the urgent need for integrated and collaborative approaches to sustainable development. These interconnected challenges have far-reaching implications for human security, social cohesion, economic stability, and environmental well-being, particularly in developing countries and across the Belt and Road Regions, where development imperatives increasingly intersect with mounting environmental pressures. Addressing these complex and interrelated challenges requires stronger linkages between science, policy, and society, complemented by enhanced regional and international scientific cooperation.

Against this backdrop, the ANSO-COMSATS-TWAS Conference on "A Sustainable Future for All Living Species on Planet Earth" will provide a strategic platform for advancing scientific collaboration, facilitating knowledge exchange, strengthening capacities, and promoting interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability. The Conference will bring together researchers, policymakers, educators, development practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders to deliberate on practical, evidence-based, and forward-looking approaches to environmental sustainability and resilience.

The Conference will focus on key thematic areas encompassing the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus, climate justice, sustainability education and planetary health, and science-policy dialogue. These areas reflect the interconnected nature of contemporary environmental and developmental challenges and the need for interdisciplinary expertise and coordinated action. Through keynote presentations, expert-led discussions, case-study exchanges, and guided deliberations, participants will engage in cross-disciplinary learning, exchange of knowledge and good practices, and collaborative problem-solving.

The initiative is particularly relevant for countries across the Belt and Road Regions and the Global South, where strengthening research and institutional capacities, facilitating knowledge transfer, and fostering international scientific networks are essential for developing effective and context-responsive sustainability strategies. The inclusion of scholars and scientists from conflict-affected and vulnerable areas further reinforces the Conference's commitment to inclusive scientific cooperation and equitable access to knowledge, expertise, and international scientific networks.

The Conference is expected to contribute to enhanced regional capacities in environmental research and management, improved understanding of integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability, and strengthened regional and international scientific networks. The deliberations will also contribute towards the development of a Conference Pledge and Outcome Document, reflecting shared commitments and outlining actionable strategies for advancing environmental sustainability and resilience across the Global South.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Foster international scientific collaboration and facilitate knowledge exchange on emerging sustainability challenges.
- Strengthen the capacities of early- and mid-career researchers through interdisciplinary learning scientific exchange, and practical engagement.
- Promote integrated and science-based solutions addressing the WEFE nexus, climate justice, and environmental resilience.
- Strengthen science-policy dialogue to support evidence-based policymaking and sustainable development.
- Facilitate regional and international networking among researchers, scientific institutions, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Encourage inclusive participation, particularly of scholars and researchers from Belt and Road countries, developing nations, and conflict-affected regions.
- Develop a concept paper outlining actionable strategies for enhancing environmental sustainability and resilience in the Global South, for subsequent dissemination among all relevant stakeholders.

Key Thematic Areas, Expected Outcomes & Conference Format

KEY THEMATIC AREAS

Theme I

Sustainability Education and Planetary Health

Theme II

The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus for Sustainability

Theme III

Science-Policy Dialogue for a Sustainable Future

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Enhanced regional capacities in environmental research and management among participating early- and mid-career researchers.
- Improved understanding of integrated, interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability challenges, particularly the WEFE nexus, climate justice, and environmental resilience.
- Strengthened regional and international scientific networks, with new partnerships forged across COMSATS, TWAS, and ANSO member states and Belt and Road countries.
- New collaborative initiatives and research programmes emerging from the scientific exchanges and partnerships facilitated through the Conference.
- Contributions to international efforts in education for sustainable development, science diplomacy, and evidence-based environmental governance.
- Establishment of a collaborative platform supporting continued scientific cooperation and sustainable development in the Belt and Road Regions and beyond.
- Development of a Conference Knowledge and Outcomes Report, reflecting shared commitments, key recommendations, and actionable strategies emerging from the Conference deliberations to advance environmental sustainability and resilience across the Global South, for dissemination among Member States, international organizations, scientific institutions, and relevant stakeholders.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

- Keynote & Opening Address
- Expert Reflections
- Technical presentations
- Moderated discussions
- Interactive sessions

Detailed Conference Programme

Day 01 | October 13, 2026 09:00 – 17:00 hours PST	
Moderator: Ms. Humaira Jahanzeb	
09:00 –09:30	**Registration of Participants**
09:30 – 10:30	**Opening Ceremony**
10:30 – 11:30	**Hi-tea & Networking**
11:30 - 12:30	**Keynote Address on Climate Justice** Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jawad Hassan
12:30 – 13:30	**Becoming Earth** Mr. Khurram Lalani, Resources Future, Pakistan
13:30 – 14:30	**Lunch Break**
14:30 - 15:30	**The Role of Science and Education for Sustainable Development** Dr. Max Paoli, TWAS, Italy
15:30 -15:45	**Open Discussion Session**
15:45 – 16:45	**Managing Ecosystem to Prevent Health Risks at the Human-Wildlife Interface** Dr. Chabi A. M. Sylvestre Djagoun, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin
16:45 – 17:00	**Open Discussion Session**

Day 02 | October 14, 2026 09:30 – 17:00 hours PST	
Moderator: Prof Dr. Ramla Shahid	
09:30 – 10:30	**Bio-manufacturing for a Sustainable Planet** Prof Dr. Jibin Sun, TIB-CAS, China
10:30 – 11:00	**Expert Reflections** Dr. Altaf Abro, Head of Mission, Secours Islamique France (SIF) Pakistan
11:00 – 12:00	**Tea Break**
12:00 – 13:00	**Building International Scientific Collaborations in Biotechnology and Food Security: the ICGEB Experience** Dr. Emanuele Buratti, ICGEB, Italy
13:00 – 14:00	**Artificial Intelligence for a Sustainable Future: Bridging Science and Policy** Prof. Dr. Rahmat Sotudeh-Gharebagh, IORA-RCSTT, Iran
14:00 – 15:00	**Lunch Break**
15:00 – 16:00	**From Science to Action: Connecting Innovation, Technology and People for a Sustainable Future** Dr. Adel Smeda, ICESCO, Morocco
16:00 – 17:00	**Bridging the Science-Policy Dialogue Gap: Lessons from Ghana for a Sustainable Future** Dr. Stephen Bekoe, CSIR-INSTI, Ghana

Day 03 | October 15, 2026 09:00 – 16:00 hours PST	
Moderator: Ms. Aisha Nazir	
09:00 – 10:00	**Optimizing the WEFE Nexus for Climate-Resilient Agriculture: A Framework for South-South Cooperation and Food Security** Dr. Memduh Ünal, IOFS, Kazakhstan
10:00 – 11:00	**Zero Waste Cinnamon Processing Centre** Dr. Sudarshana Somasiri, ITI, Sri Lanka
11:00 – 11:30	**Tea Break**
11:30 – 13:00	**From Human Homeostasis to Planetary Homeostasis: A Physiologist's Case for Integrating Planetary Health into Medical Education** Prof. Dr. Sadrettin Pençe, Istanbul Medeniyet University, Türkiye & Prof. Dr. Halime Pençe, University of Health Sciences, Türkiye
13:00 – 14:00	**Climate Change Impacts on Natural Resources: Opportunities for a Sustainable Future** Mr. Mehmood Akhtar Cheema, Former Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan
14:00 – 15:00	**Lunch Break**
15:00 – 15:30	**Closing Ceremony**
15:30 – 16:00	**Souvenir Presentation & Distribution of Certificates**
16:00 onwards	**Hi-Tea & Networking**

Speaker Profiles

SPEAKER PROFILES



Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun

Professor, Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB-CAS)

Hon'ble Chairperson, COMSATS Coordinating Council

Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun is a leading expert in industrial synthetic biology and systems biotechnology at the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences. With more than three decades of experience in academic research, industrial transformation, and South-South cooperation, he has contributed significantly to biotechnology research and industrialization. He holds a PhD in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics from the German Research Centre for Biotechnology and Technische Universität Braunschweig and currently serves as Principal Investigator and Director of the Center of Systems Biology at TIB. He has published more than 150 international peer-reviewed papers and holds over 100 invention patents, with several microbial cell factory technologies licensed for industrial production. In 2021, he founded the COMSATS Joint Center for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB), which promotes joint R&D, academic exchange, talent training, technical consulting, and technology transfer among COMSATS Member States. CCIB has been recognized by UN among world's excellent practices for Sustainable Development under South-South Cooperation. He currently serves as Chairperson of the COMSATS Coordinating Council.



Dr. Max Paoli

Programme Coordinator

The World Academy of Sciences (UNESCO–TWAS), Italy

Dr. Max Paoli is a Programme Coordinator at The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), a Unit of UNESCO. He holds a B.Sc. Hons. in Biochemistry and a D.Phil. in Chemistry and has undertaken scientific research at academic institutions in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States. At TWAS, he oversees a range of the Academy's programmes and activities, including capacity-building programmes for PhD and postdoctoral fellowships, research grants, scientific exchanges, prizes, Young Affiliates, and skill-building workshops. His work contributes to strengthening scientific capacity and supporting international research and academic cooperation. In addition to his programme responsibilities, Dr. Paoli regularly delivers lectures and presentations on sustainability, environmental ethics, sustainable development, and education for a sustainable future. His professional engagement brings together scientific capacity building and broader discussions on the ethical and educational dimensions of sustainable development.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jawad Hassan

Judge

Lahore High Court, Pakistan

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jawad Hassan has been serving as a Judge of the Lahore High Court since November 2016 and is also a Member of the Board of Management of the Punjab Judicial Academy. He holds an LL.M. in Environmental Law from Pace University School of Law, New York. Prior to his elevation to the Bench, he served as Additional Advocate-General Punjab and gained extensive professional experience in constitutional, civil, commercial and international law, environmental law, corporate matters, international arbitration, and alternative dispute resolution.

Justice Hassan is widely recognized for his significant contributions to the development of environmental and climate jurisprudence in Pakistan. His judicial work has addressed critical issues concerning environmental protection, forest conservation, pollution, urban sustainability, climate governance, food loss and waste, and the enforcement of constitutional environmental rights. His jurisprudence has particularly emphasized the interrelationship between fundamental rights, including the rights to life, dignity and public health, and environmental sustainability, climate accountability and institutional responsibility.

As a prominent Green Judge, Justice Hassan has promoted the integration of environmental law and climate principles into judicial decision-making and has contributed to strengthening environmental adjudication and institutional accountability. He has also played an important role in environmental law capacity building, including training civil judges and government officials, and has lectured extensively at national and international institutions, judicial forums and professional platforms.

His expertise extends to public and private international law, environmental constitutionalism, international arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. He has contributed to legislative and judicial reforms relating to environmental rights, child labour and domestic workers, and has authored and contributed to legal and academic publications on environmental and climate law.

At the international level, Justice Hassan has participated in judicial and professional dialogues on climate justice, environmental constitutionalism, environmental governance, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. His work and contributions to environmental and climate jurisprudence have received international recognition through leading environmental and climate-law platforms, judicial forums and academic publications.

Through his judicial, academic and institutional contributions, Justice Hassan has emerged as an important voice in advancing environmental justice, climate accountability and sustainable development through law, judicial oversight and effective institutional governance.



Dr. Emanuele Buratti

Scientific Coordinator

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Italy

Dr. Emanuele Buratti is Scientific Coordinator at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Trieste, Italy, where he also leads the Molecular Pathology Laboratory. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Trieste, where he teaches RNA Therapeutics. He holds an M.Sc. in Biology and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Trieste and leads an internationally recognized research programme in RNA biology, neurodegeneration, and molecular pathology. His research focuses on RNA-binding proteins, RNA metabolism, pre-mRNA splicing, and post-transcriptional gene expression, with particular emphasis on TDP-43 and its role in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and frontotemporal dementia. His laboratory integrates molecular biology, functional genomics, transcriptomics, and cellular disease models to investigate RNA-processing disorders and therapeutic approaches. Dr. Buratti has authored more than 250 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters and contributes to international scientific leadership and collaboration.



Dr. Adel Smeda

Expert, Science & Technology

Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), Morocco

Prof. Dr. Adel Smeda is a computer scientist and technology leader serving as Head of the Applied Sciences Department within the Science and Environment Sector of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO). He leads programmes and initiatives in applied sciences, emerging technologies, innovation, and sustainable development across ICESCO Member States, with a focus on translating scientific and technological advances into practical solutions for development challenges. His areas of engagement include artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, digital transformation, ICT,

science and technology capacity building, technology-enabled sustainable development, and Science Diplomacy. Dr. Smeda also contributes to building international partnerships and expert networks involving governments, research institutions, universities, international organizations, and technology stakeholders. His work emphasizes stronger connections between science, technology, policy, and society and the contribution of emerging technologies to inclusive and sustainable development. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Université de Nantes, France, and an M.Sc. in Computer Engineering from Dalhousie University, Canada.



Dr. Altaf Abro

Head of Mission, Indonesia & Pakistan

Secours Islamique France (SIF)

Dr. Altaf Abro is an experienced humanitarian and development professional serving as Head of Mission for Pakistan and Indonesia at Secours Islamique France (SIF). He has extensive experience in leading humanitarian and development programmes across multiple sectors, including food security and nutrition, livelihoods, climate change, disaster risk reduction, resilience, cash transfer programming, WASH, education, and peacebuilding. His responsibilities have included strategic leadership of expatriate and local teams, establishment of mission offices, renewal of institutional agreements, recruitment, and oversight of partner activities. Dr. Abro has also worked closely with humanitarian forums, embassies, UN agencies, donors, and other stakeholders to support effective programme implementation. His experience includes leading complex needs assessments, conducting field visits, coordinating with partners, and determining sectoral priorities. Through these roles, he has contributed to strengthening operational effectiveness and delivering development and humanitarian interventions responsive to community needs.



Dr. Chabi Adéyèmi Marc Sylvestre Djagoun

Associate Professor (Maître de Conférences)

University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

Dr. Chabi Djagoun is an Associate Professor (Maître de Conférences, CAMES) in Conservation Ecology at the Faculty of Agronomic Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin, and a member of the Laboratory of Applied Ecology. With more than 15 years of experience, his research focuses on biodiversity conservation, climate change, sustainable wildlife management, bushmeat ecology, and Ecohealth. He is a member of the Benin Academy of Young Scientists, a TWAS Young Affiliate, and Co-Coordinator of IUFRO Division 8. Dr. Djagoun contributes to regional and global science–policy initiatives, including as an expert contributor to the IPBES Thematic Assessment on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species and a core member of SPIN-Africa. He has collaborated with organizations including UNESCO, IUCN, and African Parks Network. He has authored more than 80 scientific publications and received the 2018 Marsh Award for Ecologists in Africa from the British Ecological Society. He is also a member of the COMSATS Technical Advisory Committee.



Prof. Dr. Rahmat Sotudeh-Gharebagh

Professor, University of Tehran, Iran

Director, IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer, Iran

Prof. Dr. Rahmat Sotudeh-Gharebagh is an academic leader, researcher, and science diplomacy advocate with more than 27 years of experience in higher education, research leadership, and international collaboration. He serves as Director of the IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer and is Professor of Process Engineering at the University of Tehran, where he previously served as the 25th Dean of Engineering. His research encompasses artificial intelligence, digital transformation, process systems engineering, CFD-DEM, multiphase systems, digital twins, and sustainable industrial technologies. He has authored more than 250 peer-reviewed publications and eight books

and has received more than 6,450 citations. He has supervised nearly 100 MSc, PhD, and postdoctoral researchers and has contributed to international academic and science-policy initiatives. His professional work emphasizes technology transfer, ethical AI adoption, scientific cooperation, and the development of solutions to engineering and sustainability challenges. He is also a member of the COMSATS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).



Dr. Stephen Bekoe

Principal Research Scientist/Deputy Director

CSIR-Institute for Scientific and Technological Information (CSIR-INSTI), Ghana

Dr. Stephen Bekoe is a Principal Research Scientist and Deputy Director at the CSIR-Institute for Scientific and Technological Information (CSIR-INSTI), Ghana, with extensive experience in research, research management, and institutional leadership. He holds a PhD in Information Communication and Technology for Development from Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London, United Kingdom. His research interests include ICT for Development (ICT4D), digital agriculture and ICT4Ag, artificial intelligence adoption, digital transformation, digital inclusion, agricultural information systems, technology adoption, research and science communication, sustainable development, and rural livelihoods. He has produced more than 20 scientific publications and research outputs and contributed to books, technical reports, policy documents, and research and development projects. Dr. Bekoe also has considerable experience in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning and has participated in the evaluation of major agricultural research and development programmes. His work focuses on harnessing digital technologies and information systems to strengthen agricultural and rural development and promote inclusive and sustainable development.



Dr. Sudarshana Somasiri

Additional Director General (Technical Services)

Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Sri Lanka

Dr. Sudarshana Somasiri is a Chemistry Special graduate of the University of Peradeniya and holds an M.Sc. in Analytical Chemistry from the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), Peradeniya. He obtained his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Colombo in 2016, with his doctoral research focusing on the chemical characterization and authentication of Kithul (Caryota urens) sap and products. He currently serves as Additional Director General – Technical Services at the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Sri Lanka. He has also completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Total Quality Management from IWEM, Malaysia, and received specialized training in Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Australia, and India. Dr. Somasiri has authored over 20 Science Citation Index publications and more than 50 research abstracts, supervised Ph.D. and M.Sc. candidates, and holds three patents. His research interests include chemical metrology, method validation, measurement uncertainty, food safety, microplastics, and soil remediation.



Dr. Memduh Ünal

Director of Programmes

Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), Kazakhstan

Dr. Memduh Ünal is Director of Programmes at the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), based in Astana, Kazakhstan. His professional and academic work focuses on food security, economic security, public policy, social protection, and international development, with particular emphasis on the interlinkages between water, agriculture, food systems, trade, and public policy. Prior to joining IOFS, he served as a Senior Expert at the Presidency of Strategy and Budget of Türkiye and previously held the position of Director at the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). Dr. Ünal holds a PhD in Social Policy and a Master of Public Administration from Cornell University. He brings extensive experience in regional cooperation, policy analysis, programme development, and international development, particularly across OIC and Central Asian countries.



Prof. Dr. Sadrettin Pençe

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

Istanbul Medeniyet University, Türkiye

Prof. Dr. Sadrettin Pençe is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Istanbul Medeniyet University, Türkiye. Born in 1965 in Bor district of Niğde Province, he studied Medicine at Erzurum Atatürk University Faculty of Medicine and Business Administration at Marmara University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. He has served as a physician in Erzurum and subsequently worked at Gaziantep University Faculty of Medicine and Aziz Sancar DETAE at Istanbul University. Throughout his career, he has held various academic and administrative leadership positions, including department head, Vice Dean, Rector's Consultant, and Vice Rector at the University of Health Sciences and Istanbul Medeniyet University. He has also served on numerous boards and committees and contributed to the health transformation project through the Technical Committee of the Ministry of Health. In addition, he has undertaken roles as consultant, chief researcher, and board and committee member at various institutions affiliated with TÜBİTAK.



Mr. Khurram Lalani

Principal

Resources Future, Pakistan

As a Principal at Resources Future, the Mr. Khurram Lalani specializes in global climate investments, climate finance, and public finance management across key markets, including the UAE, Pakistan, Jordan, Algeria, Indonesia, China, Egypt, and the United States. Their work focuses on structuring bankable climate projects, optimizing opportunities within carbon markets, and integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria to promote sustainable and impactful outcomes. Through strategic collaborations with governments and private-sector stakeholders, they contribute to mobilizing green finance and supporting the development of climate-resilient infrastructure. Mr. Khurram's professional engagement also

focuses on aligning investment and public finance approaches with broader sustainability objectives and advancing economic growth while addressing climate-related challenges. With experience spanning multiple regions and financial contexts, his work contributes to strengthening climate investment frameworks and facilitating partnerships that support sustainable development and long-term climate resilience.



Mahmood Akhtar Cheema

Senior Advisor Climate, Environment and Biodiversity

Former Country Representative of IUCN Pakistan

Mahmood Akhtar Cheema has over 39 years of experience in Natural Resource Management and Programme Development, Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation and Integrated Water Resource Management. With more than 29 years of experience with IUCN Pakistan he made significant contributions to IUCN Pakistan programme development as a whole while establishing and maintaining linkages with the Government, NGOs and IUCN members and partners in different capacities. At present, he is currently providing advisory services to select institutions. Before joining IUCN, Mr. Cheema worked with Government as an officer; and as consultant with UNDP, FAO, NRSP and AKRSP.

Mr. Cheema holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad Pakistan; and a Master of Science degree in Agriculture Extension from University of Reading, U.K.; and Overseas Technical Trainer's Award, organized by Center for Rural Development and Training, University of Wolverhampton, U.K. 1993.

Among numerous affiliations, he is a Founder Member of Human Resource Development Network (HRDN); Member BoD Energy Conservation Fund Pakistan; Member BoD of Mountain Areas Conservancy Fund (MACF); Member of Green Task Force on Green Growth Initiative, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Member BoD Green Climate Fund; Member of Environmental Protection Councils of Punjab and AJK; Member of the Committee of the Sindh Forest and Wildlife Department on Status of Notified Protected Areas; Member of the Board of Directors of Punjab Sustainable Development Fund; member of Climate Change Policy Implementation Committee and Member of the Pakistan Climate Change Council, Government Pakistan.



Prof. Dr. Halime Hanım Pençe

Department of Medical Biochemistry
University of Health Sciences, Türkiye

Prof. Dr. Halime Hanım Pençe is a Professor of Medical Biochemistry at the Hamidiye Faculty of Medicine, Health Sciences University, Türkiye. She received her medical degree from Atatürk University in 1993 and her PhD in Medical Biochemistry from the same university in 1999. Her research interests encompass molecular biochemistry, gene and microRNA expression, metabolic and vascular diseases, cancer biomarkers, diabetes, atherosclerosis, and experimental disease models. She has led and contributed to numerous nationally funded research projects, including studies on COVID-19, atherosclerosis, Type 2 diabetes, endometriosis, cancer, and molecular mechanisms of addiction. Prof. Pençe has supervised Master's and doctoral research and has authored numerous publications in international peer-reviewed journals, contributing substantially to biomedical and translational research.

MODERATOR PROFILES



Ms. Humaira Jahanzeb

National Project Manager

National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Programme, Pakistan

Ms. Humaira Jahanzeb is the National Project Manager for Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan Programme, where she leads climate resilience and adaptation initiatives supported by the Green Climate Fund. With expertise in climate change adaptation and sustainable development, she provides strategic oversight to large-scale environmental and climate initiatives in South Asia. Her work focuses on strengthening climate resilience and supporting adaptation efforts in response to the growing challenges posed by climate change. Through her role, she contributes to the planning, coordination, and implementation of initiatives aimed at advancing sustainable and climate-resilient development. Her experience in climate adaptation and sustainable development provides a strong foundation for engaging with issues related to environmental sustainability, resilience, and the implementation of climate action. Her professional engagement reflects the importance of strengthening institutional and programme-level responses to climate risks and promoting sustainable approaches to development across the region.



Prof. Dr. Ramla Shahid

Director, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC)

Kohsar University Murree, Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Ramla Shahid is a Professor of Biochemistry with a PhD from the University of Cambridge and postdoctoral research experience at MIT as a Fulbright scholar. With more than 15 years of experience in teaching, research, and academic leadership, she has supervised PhD, MS, and undergraduate research students and authored international research publications. Her research interests include cancer biology, cancer stem cells, molecular markers, G-quadruplexes, regenerative medicine, stem cells, wound healing, and natural product-based drug discovery. As Director of ORIC at Kohsar University Murree, she contributes to strengthening research, innovation, commercialization, and responsible research practices. Her extensive experience in biomedical research, postgraduate supervision, and academic leadership provides a strong foundation for engaging with the relationship between science, human health, ethics, and society. She brings the perspective of both an active biomedical researcher and an academic leader committed to ethical, human-centered, equitable, and socially responsible scientific advancement.



Ms. Aisha Nazir

Climate Finance and International Development Professional

Resources Future, Pakistan

Ms. Aisha Nazir is a climate finance and international development professional with more than six years of experience in climate finance, programme design, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning. She currently leads the Private Sector Climate Finance vertical at Resources Future, where she co-designs investment-grade climate finance proposals for private and public sector as well as cause-based clients, with a focus on funds including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNIDO, and the European Union. Previously, she served as Portfolio Management Specialist at NRSP's Climate Finance

Facility, leading proposal development and donor relations that secured funding from the GCF, UNEP, USAID, and FCDO, including NRSP's selection as a GCF Readiness Delivery Partner. A Fulbright Scholar, she holds a Master's in International Development from the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School. Her expertise spans climate finance architecture, carbon markets, and climate communications, complemented by experience in communicating climate finance and development issues to investors and policymakers.

CONFERENCE FOCAL PERSON PROFILES



Dr. Mehwish Qayyum Durani

Director (International Partner Organizations), COMSATS Secretariat

Head, COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS)

Dr. Mehwish Durani is Director (International Partner Organizations) and Head of the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) at the COMSATS Secretariat, Islamabad. She has over 16 years of professional experience in science, technology and innovation, climate policy and governance, sustainable development, and international cooperation.

Since assuming leadership of CCCS in 2023, she has been engaged in the planning and coordination of international programmes, scientific conferences, expert dialogues, and capacity-building initiatives in collaboration with UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, OIC institutions, and COMSATS Centres of Excellence. Her areas of professional engagement include climate change, environmental governance, sustainable development, water and food security, biodiversity, renewable energy, biotechnology, and South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Dr. Durani has also been actively involved in COMSATS' international engagements under the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) process and in strengthening institutional partnerships for science, technology and innovation in support of sustainable development. She holds a Ph.D. in Government and Public Policy, with research focusing on environmental mainstreaming and governance. Her professional experience also includes assignments with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), National Testing Service (NTS), International Red cross and the World Health Organization (WHO).



Dr. Max Paoli

Programme Coordinator

The World Academy of Sciences (UNESCO–TWAS), Italy

Dr. Max Paoli is a Programme Coordinator at The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), a Unit of UNESCO. He holds a B.Sc. Hons. in Biochemistry and a D.Phil. in Chemistry and has undertaken scientific research at academic institutions in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States. At TWAS, he oversees a range of the Academy's programmes and activities, including capacity-building programmes for PhD and postdoctoral fellowships, research grants, scientific exchanges, prizes, Young Affiliates, and skill-building workshops. His work contributes to strengthening scientific capacity and supporting international research and academic cooperation. In addition to his programme responsibilities, Dr. Paoli regularly delivers lectures and presentations on sustainability, environmental ethics, sustainable development, and education for a sustainable future. His professional engagement brings together scientific capacity building and broader discussions on the ethical and educational dimensions of sustainable development.



Prof. Dr. Federico Rosei

Professor of Industrial Chemistry

University of Trieste, Italy

Prof. Federico Rosei, Officer of the Order of Canada and Knight of the National Order of Quebec, is an internationally recognized scientist specializing in nanostructured materials and advanced materials technologies. He received his MSc in 1996 and PhD in 2001 from Sapienza University of Rome. Since March 2023, he has held the Chair of Industrial Chemistry in the Department of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Trieste, Italy. He is also a Full Professor at the Énergie Matériaux Télécommunications Research Centre of the National Institute for Scientific Research in Varennes, Quebec, Canada, where he previously served as Director from 2011 to 2019. He has held Canada Research Chairs in nanostructured organic, inorganic, and advanced materials and served as UNESCO Chair in Materials and Technologies for Energy Conversion, Saving and Storage from 2013 to 2023. Prof. Rosei is a Fellow of several leading national and international scientific academies and societies, reflecting his extensive contributions to materials science and energy-related research.

Organizing & Partner Institutions

The Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO)



ANSO is a non-profit, non-governmental international scientific organization founded in 2018. It is committed to advancing the shared sustainable development of the Belt and Road regions and beyond, and supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by catalyzing and implementing concrete international cooperation initiatives in Science, Technology, Innovation, and Capacity Building (STIC). The founding members of ANSO include the Chinese Academy of Sciences and 36 other national academies, research institutions, universities, and international organizations from around the world. By the end of 2025, the ANSO membership had expanded to 96 members, covering 59 countries and 9 international organizations.

The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)

the Voice for Science in the South



The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS) was founded in 1983 by a distinguished group of scientists from the developing world, under the leadership of Abdus Salam, the Pakistani physicist and Nobel laureate. They shared a belief that developing nations, by building strength in science and engineering, could build the knowledge and skill to address such challenges as hunger, disease and poverty. From the start, the Academy had essential support from Italian scientists and political leaders.

The Third World Academy of Sciences, as it was originally known, was inaugurated officially in 1985 during a ceremony attended by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. Initially, TWAS had 42 elected Fellows, nine of them Nobel laureates.

Today, TWAS has more than 1,400 elected Fellows—some of the world's most accomplished scientists and engineers, representing 112 countries and including 11 Nobel laureates.

About 84 per cent come from developing nations, and the rest are scientists from the developed world whose work has had a significant impact in the South. TWAS Fellows are the foundation for all of the Academy's work.

Through four-decades and with its partners, TWAS has graduated over 1,230 PhDs and awarded more than 2,300 postdoctoral fellowships to developing world scientists. The Academy also bestowed over 1,200 prizes, awarded over 2,800 research grants, trained over 750 individuals in science diplomacy, and supported over 1,400 exchange visits. TWAS has established five regional partners to help organize activities and disseminate information, found today in Alexandria, Egypt; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Beijing, China; Pretoria, South Africa; and Bangalore, India.

TWAS is a programme unit of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which, under a 1991 agreement, assumed responsibility for administering TWAS funds and personnel.

Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)

Three Decades of Scientific Excellence for Sustainable Development in the Spirit of South-South Cooperation



Established from the vision of Nobel Laureate, Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) serves as an intergovernmental organization dedicated to bridging the widening gap in scientific knowledge and economic development between the Global North and the Global South, while promoting science- and technology-driven sustainable development.

Today, COMSATS brings together 27 Member States across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America, supported by a dynamic network of 25 International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence (CoEs). These specialized institutions function as national hubs for research, innovation, and capacity-building within their respective countries. The Commission is formally accredited with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as an Observer IGO and accredited Organization to the Commonwealth of Nations, reflecting its credibility and recognition as a science advocate

and key multilateral partner in science, technology, and development cooperation.

COMSATS implements a comprehensive and integrated programme of activities to advance the role of science and technology in sustainable development. Its core areas of work include promoting science-informed policymaking among Member States; facilitating access to international funding for scientific and technological initiatives; and fostering collaborative programmes in research, education, and training. These efforts are further strengthened through scholarship schemes and capacity-building initiatives offered through its network of Centres of Excellence. In parallel, COMSATS actively complements the work of leading international scientific organizations, ensuring that the priorities and perspectives of developing countries are effectively represented in global discourse.

In its host country, Pakistan, COMSATS has implemented key initiatives, including advancements in Electric Vehicle and Battery Technologies, the establishment of the Nano-Technology Lab (NTL), and Tele-Health Clinics under the CTH Programme to improve healthcare access. The COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) further contributes to climate action and environmental stewardship, including impactful participation in global platforms such as the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP).

With over 90 Memoranda of Understanding signed with national, regional, and international partners, COMSATS has established a robust collaborative network. Its key partners include prominent organizations such as UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO, UNESCAP, UNOSSC, ICESCO, SESRIC, IOFS, ICARDA, South Centre, INSME, PIDF, TWAS, ICTP, and ICGEB, among others. This extensive partnership framework enables COMSATS to mobilize expertise, resources, and policy support in advancing sustainable development across its Member States.

University of Trieste



Founded in 1924, the University of Trieste (Università degli Studi di Trieste) is a public research university located in Trieste, in Italy's Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. With around 24,000 students and 12 faculties, the University offers a broad range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes across diverse disciplines. Its educational environment combines personalized learning, advanced laboratories, extensive library resources, and dedicated academic and student services.

Research is a core strength of the University, with particular emphasis on doctoral education, international research collaboration, and the recruitment of highly qualified academic and scientific personnel. Its location in Trieste, an internationally recognized centre of science, provides strong links with prominent research institutions and scientific organizations, including the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste, the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA), and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB).

The University maintains extensive national and international partnerships spanning higher education, research, technology transfer, and innovation. It plays an active role in European and international cooperation, with established engagement across the Balkans, Eastern Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Conference Logistics / Practical Information

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Venue

Serena Hotel, Khayaban-e-Suhrwardy Road, G-5/1, Islamabad

Conference Dates

Day 01: 13th October 2026, Tuesday

Day 02: 14th October 2026, Wednesday

Day 03: 15th October 2026, Thursday

Conference Timings

Day 01: 08:30 – 17:00 PST

Day 02: 09:30 – 17:00 PST

Day 03: 09:00 – 17:00 PST

Meals

Lunch and tea/refreshments will be provided during the Conference.

Certificates of Participation

Certificates of Participation will be awarded to participants who **maintain mandatory attendance throughout all three days of the Conference and submit the Conference Feedback Form.**

Conference Contacts

Conference focal persons:

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#SouthSouthCooperation #ScienceForASustainableFuture
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