

## **GESDA and South Africa Forge Partnership to Advance Anticipatory Science Diplomacy**

Building a shared platform to connect innovation, policy, and society in an era of rapid scientific change.

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On the occasion of a signing ceremony held at the Campus Biotech in Geneva, the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator and South Africa's Department of Science, Technology and Innovation formalized a Letter of Intent establishing a framework for strategic cooperation and equitable partnership in anticipatory science diplomacy.

The Letter of Intent was signed by Professor Marilyne Andersen, Director-General of GESDA, and H.E. Blade Nzimande, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of South Africa. "For us, South Africa is key in engaging more broadly on the continent and with other BRICS countries, such as China or India with whom we are starting to build special relationships. These kinds of relationships are extremely precious to us as they allow us to align global anticipatory science diplomacy with regional priorities, giving meaning to our mission", emphasised Ms Andersen.

This partnership serves as a strategic entry point for GESDA's engagement on the African continent and reflects a shared commitment to advancing anticipation and science diplomacy as a tool to better align emerging scientific developments with societal needs. It builds on the robust collaboration between the two organisations, initiated during the World Science Forum 2022 in Cape Town. In September 2025, GESDA and SDCfA co-hosted the South Africa Anticipatory Leadership Week in Pretoria on the margins of the G20 Research and Innovation Ministerial – marking the first edition of GESDA Anticipatory Leadership Initiative on the African continent, with support from Wellcome.

Under this new framework, GESDA and SDCfA will cooperate on the basis of co-creation, equity, mutual benefit, and joint governance. The collaboration recognizes the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa (SDCfA), an initiative of DSTI, as a leading continental platform for science diplomacy, while leveraging GESDA's global expertise in anticipating scientific breakthroughs and translating them into policy-relevant insights.

### **Objectives of the collaboration**

The programme of cooperation will focus on scaling capacity-building efforts and explore broader integration of anticipatory approaches into governance systems. Specifically, the partnership aims to:

- Promote anticipatory leadership and science diplomacy among policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, and civil society;
- Strengthen multilateral engagement and integrate science anticipation into global and regional governance processes, including contributions to the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- Enhance institutional capacities in Africa through training, technical cooperation, and knowledge-sharing initiatives;
- Foster joint initiatives in areas such as science anticipation exercises, quantum technologies, and global science diplomacy engagement.

This collaboration marks an important step in strengthening science diplomacy synergies between Africa and Europe and reinforces the role of anticipatory governance in addressing global challenges and shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future.

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### About GESDA

The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) is an independent Swiss foundation that connects scientific anticipation with global diplomacy. Its mission is to anticipate emerging scientific breakthroughs and help translate them into inclusive, ethical, and cooperative solutions to global challenges.

### Media Contact

For more information or interviews with GESDA leadership and scientists, please contact

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