



LETTER OF INTENT

To establish a framework for strategic cooperation and equitable partnership between the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator and the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI)

1. This Letter of Intent sets out a framework for developing a strategic and equitable partnership between the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) and the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) (hereafter referred to as the parties).
2. The GESDA Foundation is a Swiss Foundation established in 2019 by the Federal Government of Switzerland and the Republic and Canton of Geneva with support from the City of Geneva, with the mission to bridge the accelerating frontiers of science with the needs of society. By anticipating emerging scientific discoveries and translating them into concrete actions, GESDA revitalizes multilateral discussions by enabling the proactive governance and application of scientific advances for humanity's benefit, before they become sources of disruption, instability, or inequality.
3. The South Africa's Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) established the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa (SDCfA) platform in 2022 and is implemented by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the City of Tshwane, in partnership with other stakeholders in the South African National System of Innovation and the African continental innovation community to promote multilateral collaboration and science diplomacy to enable socio-economic development that addresses South Africa and Africa's pressing societal challenges.



4. This partnership builds on the longstanding collaboration between the parties initiated with the 2022 World Science Forum in Cape Town, leading to the successful joint implementation of the South Africa Anticipatory Leadership Week from September 18-23, 2025 as a side event of the G20 Research and Innovation Ministerial Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa.
5. The parties agree that cooperation under this framework will be guided by principles of co-creation, equity, mutual benefit, and joint governance, recognising the DSTI (through the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa) as a leading convening platform for science diplomacy on the African continent. Activities will be co-developed, co-implemented, and co-branded to ensure balanced visibility and impact for both parties.
6. This partnership will aim to develop mutually beneficial cooperation between the parties to leverage their respective networks and enhance their respective capacities by promoting anticipatory leadership diplomacy as an instrument for scientists, policymakers, business leaders and citizens to collectively shape the future of science to benefit all humanity.
7. The cooperation will also promote and position science anticipation at the heart of key multilateral and global governance bodies and the integration of anticipatory science and diplomacy practices into African and global policy processes, contributing to strengthened engagement with the African Union, regional economic communities, and the UN system in advancing Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, the parties will actively promote one another as strategic partners in global science diplomacy forums, ensuring recognition of their respective leadership roles and contributions in anticipatory science diplomacy.



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8. The partnership will contribute to strengthening SDCfA's institutional capacity as a regional hub for science diplomacy, foresight, and anticipatory governance in Africa, including through technical assistance, workshops, training of trainers, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.
9. The parties will work collaboratively to identify partners to advance anticipatory science diplomacy initiatives in South Africa and across the African continent, engaging the scientific, diplomatic, industry and non-profit communities, and leveraging GESDA's Anticipatory Leadership and Anticipatory Science Diplomacy frameworks, in alignment with the priorities outlined in South Africa's Decadal Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation and the African Union's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2034.
10. Additionally, the parties have indicatively and non-exhaustively identified additional actions to promote their cooperation, including: (a) jointly conducting regional science anticipation exercises (including the identification of African expert contributors to the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar); (b) advancing capacities in quantum technologies and quantum diplomacy through the Open Quantum Institute; (c) integration of SDCfA fellows and experts into GESDA's global programmes; (d) use the Africa Science Diplomacy Conference to further profile joint initiatives.
11. The above actions and timeline will be detailed in a Programme of Cooperation to be developed and approved before 31 July 2026. The Programme will be structured in two phases: Phase I will focus on continuing and scaling capacity enhancement in Anticipatory Science Diplomacy and Anticipatory Leadership building on the results achieved in 2025. Phase II will focus on a) defining avenues for infusing science anticipation across governance and multilateral platforms and processes, b) integrating other GESDA tracks (GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar, Open Quantum Institute and other GESDA initiatives) and c) exploring joint resource mobilization to implement the Programme.



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12. This document is legally non-binding and neither party incurs any binding commitments, either under national or international law, through its signature.
13. The parties will fund their own costs for any actions to be undertaken as part of the envisioned cooperation, and the signature of this Letter of Intent does not include any financial commitment. While each party will normally fund its own participation, the parties will jointly explore opportunities for co-funding, resource mobilisation, and third-party support, including joint proposals to multilateral and philanthropic donors, to sustain activities under this partnership.
14. The parties agree to jointly brand and communicate all collaborative activities, including public events, publications, and digital outputs, acknowledging SDCfA and GESDA equally in all visibility materials.
15. This Letter of Intent will be succeeded by the Programme of Cooperation to be developed before 31 July 2026 or terminated if no such Programme is developed and jointly agreed by this date, provided that the Parties may mutually agree in writing to extend this deadline by up to 3 months.
16. The DSTI and SDCfA designated liaison officers for the envisioned cooperation are Ms Vineela Pillay and Ms Hunadi Mokgalaka respectively and the GESDA designated liaison officers are Ms Joanna Wisniewska and Dr. Marga Gual Soler



For the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) Foundation

Professor Marilyne Andersen

Signed on this date At.....

For the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI)

Minister Prof. Blade Nzimande

Signed on this date At.....

*This LOI represents the implementation and cooperation between the SDCfA and GESDA. The SDCfA being an initiative set up by the DSTI.