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**1 December 2022**

## **UCT to co-host live discussion on youth in science and diplomacy**

**7 December 2022 | Protea Meeting Pod, CTICC 2 | 15:00-17:00**

Breakthroughs in science are occurring at an unprecedented pace, but their full ramifications are not always evident in the present. How will these discoveries reshape the human experience five, 10 or 25 years down the line, and how can we ensure the impact is for the benefit of all humanity?

To answer these questions, the University of Cape Town (UCT) – in collaboration with the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) and the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa (SDCfA) – will host a live discussion at the World Science Forum (WSF) 2022 entitled **Youth in Science and Diplomacy – From Anticipatory Science to Solutions for Humanity**.

The event will be hosted by UCT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.

### **Speakers include:**

- Dr Gérard Escher, Senior Advisor to the Board of GESDA
- Dr Lidia Brito, UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa
- Professor Francesco Petruccione, South African Research Chair for Quantum Information Processing and Communication and Interim Director of the National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Science at the University of Stellenbosch
- Dr Chris Trisos, Director of the [Climate Risk Lab](#) at UCT's African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI).

The event will also feature three young South Africans who [represented UCT at the GESDA Summit in Geneva](#) in October: Bekithemba Ntoni, Rejoyce Kgabo Legodi and Niel Swanepoel.

They will pitch the ideas they proposed in a competition that took them to Geneva, and then reflect on their experience at the Summit.

The goal of the event is to discuss how best to achieve intergenerational justice and ensure Africa's youth are empowered to fully leverage the potential of new science advances to tackle inequality and make sure all people benefit from the human right to science.

The session will conclude with a short workshop which uses emerging neurotechnologies as a case study, looking at their impact and how they are currently being addressed.

Participants will be invited to share their immediate thoughts on the future benefits and risks related to these technologies. They will also be able to record these thoughts to share through videos uploaded on a dedicated GESDA platform, allowing the aggregation and curation of testimonies from people of different generations, backgrounds and origins.

**Please follow a two-step registration process to access the event:**

- Step 1: [Request an invitation to attend the World Science Forum 2022.](#)
- Step 2: [Register for the youth activation event.](#)

***For more information please contact: Dr Marga Gual Soler; Head of Science Diplomacy Capacity Building, GESDA; [marga.soler@gesda.global](mailto:marga.soler@gesda.global).***

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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