



**GLOBAL
YOUNG
ACADEMY**

NEWS RELEASE

GYA and 30 Young Academies and Associations release statement suggesting actionable steps to connect fundamental science with sustainable development during Closing Ceremony of IYBSSD meeting

15 December 2023 - In a collective statement endorsed by 30 Young Academies and Associations, the Global Young Academy (GYA) underscored the pivotal role of fundamental science in achieving the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The statement ([link here](#)) was delivered during the closing ceremony of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD) at CERN in Switzerland on 15 December 2023.

The joint statement acknowledges the historical impact of fundamental science, citing examples such as the development of the life-saving COVID-19 vaccine and the roots of digital technology in fundamental research. Highlighting persistent challenges, the statement also sheds light on inequities within the research sector. Early- and mid-career researchers, particularly in low- to middle-income nations, face disadvantages, contributing to a global research density imbalance.

"We recognize that fundamental science is the bedrock of societal progress, and this statement reflects the unified voice of young scientists committed to shaping a sustainable future," stated GYA member [Hiba Baroud](#) (Vanderbilt University, United States), who was a member of the GYA team that drafted the statement. Hiba adds, "The widespread support from our peers underscores the significance of this call to action and reaffirms our collective commitment to driving meaningful change through research and innovation."

Despite these contributions, the appreciation and investment in fundamental science are on the decline worldwide, with a recent GYA report ([Back to basics](#)) revealing a shift towards applied research and demonstrating that researchers worldwide perceive a decline in support for fundamental science.

In response to these trends, the statement proposes actionable steps to connect fundamental science with sustainable development. Suggestions include supporting interdisciplinary research aligned with sustainable development goals, enhancing transitions from research to innovation, and addressing global inequities in research opportunities. The statement calls for global collaboration and urges stakeholders to recognize the profound significance of fundamental science in building a sustainable and equitable future.

What's next?

As the IYBSSD draws to an end, the UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution proclaiming the period 2024-2033 as the International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development.

Link here: <https://www.iybssd2022.org/en/un-general-assembly-proclaims-international-decade-of-science-for-sustainable-development/>

About the Global Young Academy

The vision of the GYA is science for all; science for the future, and its mission is to give a voice to young scientists and researchers around the world. The GYA, founded in 2010, is an independent science academy of 200 outstanding early- to mid-career researchers from six continents who are selected from across disciplines based on their academic excellence and commitment to engage with society. GYA members serve five-year terms, and the GYA presently counts members and alumni from 101 countries. The GYA administrative Office is publicly funded and hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. For more information, visit www.globalyoungacademy.net

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