The World Science Forum (WSF) is a global biennial meeting that provides the scientific community, public policy makers, industry, civil society and other stakeholders with a global platform to exchange ideas on the growing interdependence of science and society, and the role of science in addressing global challenges facing humanity.

The 2022 WSF will be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 6 to 9 December 2022. The programme includes various lectures and parallel sessions aimed at addressing a diverse range of science and policy-related topics and themes. There will also be exhibitions, science and historical excursions, and a community outreach programme targeting young people.

The South African Department of Science and Innovation is hosting the 2022 event in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the International Science Council (ISC), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), The World Academy of Sciences, the European Academies Science Advisory Council and the InterAcademy Partnership.

About the World Science Forum

The 1999 World Conference on Science for the Twenty-First Century, convened in Budapest, Hungary, by UNESCO, the International Council for Science (now part of the ISC) and other partners, highlighted the need for a forum for discussion between the scientific community and society.

Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in partnership with UNESCO, ISC and AAAS therefore established a series of follow-up events called the World Science Forum.

The first four events, in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009, were all held in Hungary. They looked at the societal impact of knowledge, the ethical responsibilities of scientists and decision-makers, the importance of knowledge resources to manage the world’s economies and societies, and a strategic vision for the future of science.

In 2009 it was decided that every second WSF would be held in Hungary and every other gathering in a partner country. World Science Forums have since been held in Brazil (2015) and Jordan (2017), and in Hungary in 2011, 2013 and 2019.
The 2022 WSF is being held in South Africa, which is proud to host the third WSF outside Hungary and the first in Africa.

**Science for Social Justice**

The theme, "Science for Social Justice", will discuss how science is connected to greater social issues, and how it can contribute to equitable treatment and the fair allocation of resources, support human rights, and respond to issues associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, among other global challenges. The importance of aligning the natural sciences with the social sciences is an important part of this discussion.

The theme is internationally relevant, but also of particular relevance to South Africa and Africa, and the work that still needs to be done in terms of empowering women and promoting economic equality.

Sub-themes include the following:

- **Science for human dignity** – What is the role of science in fighting poverty, unemployment, inequality and exclusion?
- **Science for climate justice** – How can science and civil society lead the way in correcting the failure of climate policy?
- **Science for Africa and the world** – How can the potential of African science be unleashed through global cooperation?
- **Science for diplomacy** – How can science boost multilateralism and global solidarity?
- **Justice in science** – How can science reflect the society we want?

The World Science Forum in numbers

- 25 Pre-events
- 28 Thematic sessions
- 100 Exhibitors
- 2000 Registered participants
- 100 Speakers

For more information visit:
https://worldscienceforum.org/
https://www.dst.gov.za/

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