

Dear Colleague:

The International Astronomical Union is one of the main partners of the project "[A Global Approach to the Gender Gap in Mathematical and Natural Sciences: How to Measure It, How to Reduce It?](#)". This is an interdisciplinary collaboration of eleven partners, led by the International Mathematical Union (IMU) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), supported by the International Council for Science (ICSU) over the triennium 2017–2019. The project aims to better understand the problems mathematical, computing, and natural science academics and practitioners are facing around the world.

One of the specific tasks for the project is to collect data via a joint global survey across the world to inform policy makers from all countries, especially developing countries, about reducing the gap between men and women in mathematical, computing, and natural sciences.

With the following, you are cordially invited to participate in the 2018 Global Survey of Mathematical, Computing, and Natural Scientists. The survey is available in seven languages (English, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese – simply choose your language on the first page of the survey) and can be found at <http://statisticalresearchcenter.org/global18> The survey will remain open until 31 October 2018.

The data are being collected by the non-profit Statistical Research Center of the American Institute of Physics. Responses to this survey are voluntary, and your individual information will be held in strict confidence. We are aiming for thousands of respondents from every corner of the world!

We will also need your help to find more respondents (men and women), to answer this survey. Please forward this e-mail to anyone (both men and women) who has studied or worked in mathematics, computing, natural sciences, or the history and philosophy of science and technology. You can find the cover letters in all seven languages of the survey here: <https://icsugendergapinscience.org/2018-global-survey-of-mathematical-computing-and-natural-scientists/>

It is only by hearing from as many people as possible that we can understand the worldwide situation for people in these fields.

Thank you for your help with this important effort.

Sincerely,

Piero Benvenuti & Francesca Primas

*IAU General Secretary & Chair of the IAU Working Group "Women in Astronomy"*

*On behalf of*

*Marie-Francoise Roy (IMU) and Mei-Hung Chiu (IUPAC)*

*Coordinators of the Gender Gap in Science project*