



Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Poland
to the United Nations
in New York



IN
SUPPORT
OF



CONCEPT NOTE: Women in Science Discussion at the United Nations

Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2025

Objective: Host an astronaut-led event to highlight the contributions of women and girls in science, and the importance of ensuring that they are safe from gender-based violence and gender discrimination since women in science tend to be at elevated risk for gender-based violence.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE: UPLIFTING WOMEN IN STEM

We are hosting an event during the 10th International Day of Women and Girls in Science at the United Nations featuring *sixteen female astronauts* – nearly 20% of all the women astronauts in the world. Member states and astronauts alike will speak about the *importance of ensuring that women are safe from gender-based violence and gender bias in science*. This will be followed by a *private reception* for the female astronauts, celebrity guests and UN officials.

WHY SAFETY FOR WOMEN IN STEM

- Sexual violence bars women from entering and thriving in the fields in STEM
- Women in STEM are 3x more likely to face sexual violence than non-STEM women.
- Sexual harassment is pervasive for both female students and professors in STEM
- Sexual violence is underreported, but of those survivors who do report, 90% experience retaliation

THE CEREMONY

There has never been a public gathering of past, present, and future female astronauts that celebrates the contributions women make to STEM and the things they overcome to get there. We propose changing that by hosting an astronaut ceremony at this event to honor each attending astronaut. Select astronauts, including Cady Coleman, Jeanette Epps, Sian Proctor, and Amanda Nguyen will give remarks alongside one member state from each UN regional group.

Special guests like Terry Crews, Bill Nye, and the Minister for Equality of Poland Katarzyna Kotula will give remarks as well.

This event highlights the importance of empowering women in STEM - and keeping them safe while they are in these fields.

Rise is grateful for the Permanent Mission of Poland and Spotlight's support on these events.