

**The Assistant Director-General  
for Natural Sciences**

To:  
National Commissions for UNESCO

cc:  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO  
UNESCO Field Offices

19 May 2025

Ref.: SC/PBS/STIP/25/4244

Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Director-General, I am pleased to inform you that, within the framework of the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Programme, we have launched the call for nominations for the 2026 International Awards.

The 2026 edition of the Awards will designate five outstanding scientific researchers in Life Sciences and Environment. Each of the five Laureates will receive an award of €100,000 for her contribution to advances in scientific research.

Since the beginning of the programme in 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Awards have honoured 137 laureates, seven of whom have also won the Nobel Prize.

Scientists around the world are invited to nominate candidates for the 2026 International Awards, and an international jury of eminent scientists makes the final selection.

I would be grateful if you could please transmit this call for nominations to renowned scientists, and partner institutions in your country who would be likely to present candidates.

Nominations must be submitted **by Friday, 4 July 2025** through the dedicated online platform: <https://www.forwomeninscience.com/challenge/show/139>. The platform is the only tool for submitting candidates' applications and monitoring the selection process. No paper applications will be accepted. Please find attached the Rules and Regulations guiding the programme.

Nominators will have to sign into the platform and upload all the necessary documents in order to submit the candidate's application. Nominators of previous editions will be asked to reset their password when they first log in, for data security reasons and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. New nominators will need to create a user id and password.

Thank you for your active participation in ensuring that the best women researchers from each region are recognized and rewarded for their scientific excellence.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Lidia Brito', is positioned above the printed name.

Lidia Brito

Annex: Rules and Regulations for the 2026 L'Oréal-UNESCO International Awards