

Global Closing Ceremony of the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ2025)

Celebration and Reflection: “The Quantum Legacy”

10 – 11 February 2026, Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra – Ghana

Draft Programme [15-January-2026]

Day 1

09:00	Registration & Welcome Video of the Quantum 100
10:00	Welcome Address – Haruna Iddrisu, Minister for Education of Ghana
10:10	Statements by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UN Resident Coordinator• UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Science• John Doyle, Past President of the American Physical Society• Minister for Environment, Science, and Technology of Ghana
10:50	Cultural Interlude
11:00	Keynote Address Topic: <i>A Century of Quantum Science: Celebrating 100 Years of Discovery, Impact, and the Next Frontier for Humanity</i> Presenter: Michele Dougherty, Institute of Physics
11:30	Group Photograph / Coffee Break

12:00	Launch of the 2025 IYQ Report – UNESCO Panel Discussion Topic: <i>From Celebration to Continuity: Consolidating the Gains of IYQ2025 and Advancing the International Day of Quantum Science</i> Moderator: Sir Peter Knight, Imperial College London
	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amal Kasry, UNESCO• Francis Oduro, KNUST University• Emily Edwards, Duke University• Paul Cadden-Zimansky, Bard College• Yasser Omar, Portuguese Quantum Institute
12:45	Cultural Segment - “Quantum Rhythms” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance by a Ghanaian youth inspired by science• Reading of the IYQ2025 Poetry Contest winning entry
13:15	Sponsor Networking Lunch
14:30	Dialogue Topic: <i>Africa and the Future of Quantum Science and Technology: Leadership, Innovation, and the Road Ahead</i> Moderator: Sandro Scandolo, ICTP
	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nii Narku Quaynor, University of Cape Coast• Ahmed Younes, Alexandria University• Yassera Ismail, Stellenbosch University• Estelle Inack, Perimeter Institute• Zeblon Vilakazi, Wits University
15:15	Keynote Address Topic: <i>Unlocking Tomorrow: Quantum Knowledge as a Catalyst for Human Advancement</i> Speaker: Heike Riel, German Physical Society

15:45 Summary of Day 1 Activities and Announcement

Moderator: ITU Representative

16:00 End of Day 1 Speaking Programme

19:00 Welcome Dinner: Hosted by the Minister for Education, Ghana, the Hon. Haruna Iddrisu.

DAY 2

09:00 Recap of Day 1 Activities

09:05 Panel Discussion

Topic: *Exploring the strategic priorities that will define the next decade of quantum science and technology*

Moderator: Jonathan Bagger, APS

Panelists:

- UNESCO Representative
- Silvina Ponce Dawson, IUPAP
- Ahmadou Wague, African Physical Society
- Joe Queenan, SCQuantum
- Tommaso Calarco, EU Quantum Flagship

9:50 **Introduction and Launch of the Global Quantum Initiative**

UNESCO / GESDA Presentation (10 min)

Panel Discussion (45 min)

Topic: *A discussion of the Global Quantum Initiative launched by UNESCO together with other founding partners.*

Moderator: TBC

Panelists:

- UNESCO Representative
- Mira Wolf-Bauwens, GESDA



- Gillian Makamara, ITU
- UNU Representative

10:45 Panel Discussion

Topic: *Quantum Science for Global Development: Building Talent, Expanding Access, and Shaping the Future of National Competitiveness*

Moderator: Carla Hermann, University of Chile

Panelists:

- Rosario Fazio, ICTP
- Prince Osei, AIMS
- Daniel Moraes, Venturus
- David Morcuende, QuIC

11:30 **Education, Workforce Force, and Youth - Led Forum**

Topic: *Preparing the World for a Quantum Future: Education, Skills and Youth-Led Innovation*

13:00 Lunch Break

14:30 Cultural Visit

17:00 Departure