

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:** *From Celebration to Continuity: Consolidating the Gains of IYQ2025 and Advancing the International Day of Quantum Science*
- Moderator:** Sir Peter Knight, Imperial College London
- Panelists:**
- 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”
- 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:** *Africa and the Future of Quantum Science and Technology: Leadership, Innovation, and the Road Ahead*
- Moderator:** Sandro Scandolo, ICTP
- Panelists:**
- 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:** *Unlocking Tomorrow: Quantum Knowledge as a Catalyst for Human Advancement*
- 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	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Topic: <i>Exploring the strategic priorities that will define the next decade of quantum science and technology</i></p> <p>Moderator: Jonathan Bagger, APS</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNESCO Representative• Silvina Ponce Dawson, IUPAP• Ahmadou Wague, African Physical Society• Joe Queenan, SCQuantum• Tommaso Calarco, EU Quantum Flagship
9:50	<p>Introduction and Launch of the Global Quantum Initiative</p> <p>UNESCO / GESDA Presentation (10 min)</p> <p>Panel Discussion (45 min)</p> <p>Topic: <i>A discussion of the Global Quantum Initiative launched by UNESCO together with other founding partners.</i></p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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