In the third decade of the third millennium, our world is shaken by a series of transitions and disruptions. They threaten the natural life-support systems as well as the cultural value systems of our civilization. Anthropogenic global warming is arguably the biggest of those threats, but there are several other challenges around the corner – just think of how unbridled AI may transform our societies. This means that advanced systems analysis and its applications are needed more than ever to find sustainable pathways through the hyper-complex decisions landscape of contemporary reality. This also means that IIASA is needed more than ever – for the benefit of people, places, and the planet.

By applying systems analysis to risks and opportunities at all scales, the Institute provides science-based insights to decision makers, stakeholders, communities, and individuals.

IIASA was founded in 1972 to build bridges between the West and the East through the universal power of science. IIASA will continue to build “bridges of enlightenment” in today’s multipolar world. I am privileged to lead this fine institution for the next five years.

Science diplomacy

IIASA is at the forefront of promoting science diplomacy and fostering debates about how science can help build trust between nations and support foreign policies.

IIASA led the development of the Vienna Statement on Science Diplomacy (VSSD), which advocates for a renewed global commitment to international scientific cooperation to help countries build stronger relations for the benefit of all of humanity. The VSSD has been endorsed by over two hundred eminent personalities from the academic and policymaking community, including Ban Ki-moon, 8th UN Secretary-General, Tarja Halonen, 11th President of the Republic of Finland, Romain Murenzi, 2nd Executive Director of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and Jahou Samba Faal, Secretary General of the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA).
IIASA is an international research institute based near Vienna, Austria, that advances systems analysis and applies its research methods to identify policy solutions to reduce human footprints, enhance the resilience of natural and socioeconomic systems, and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The results of IIASA research and the expertise of its scientists are made available to policymakers in countries around the world to help them produce effective, science-based policies.

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
Schlossplatz 1, A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria
iiasa.ac.at

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Our network
The institute's international and interdisciplinary network includes over 3,500 scholars from over 50 countries, member communities, institutions, diplomatic partners, and visiting fellows. Join IIASA Connect to access our global systems analysis network.

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IIASA research is regularly published in high-impact journals, and several IIASA researchers are continually among the world's most highly cited. Over 500 scientific publications were made freely available in 2022 and are published in the Institute's online repository PURE. By making all IIASA-authored publications open access, the Institute ensures the distribution of its systems analysis knowledge worldwide. Many IIASA models are also freely accessible.

My YSSP experience reinforced my vision that climate change is not just an environmental problem, but also a social and economic one. The knowledge I acquired has been invaluable for the different roles I've filled since.

Esperanza González Mahecha
Climate Change Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank, 2017 YSSP alumna

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