

Gender Summits

Portia



Location	Target group	Budget	SDGs	Additional partners
Global	Researchers, gender scholars, policymakers, funders, industry representatives, and other stakeholders in the research ecosystem	\$45,000 a year (2024-2026)	SDG5 (5.5), SDG10 (targets 10.3) and SDG17 (target 17.6)	The German Research Foundation (DFG)

Synopsis

Advance inclusion for all in research and innovation by leveraging the global Gender Summit platform to facilitate multistakeholder dialogue and achieve consensus on critical interventions at the national, regional and institutional levels.

Program description

Since 2011, the Gender Summits (GS), instigated by Portia and convened globally, have significantly impacted the international research community. To date, the Gender Summit platform has been held 25 times across 18 countries, facilitating 50 days of dialogue, featuring more than 1,200 speakers and engaging over 9,000 participants.

The GS uses new research to foster dialogue on science participation. They address gender gaps in research and strive to improve the societal impact of science, catalyzing resources to design gender action plans and establishing integrated, multi-year strategy plans to tackle these gaps.

In 2025, we continued evolving the GS platform into a more inclusive and sustainable hybrid model, combining global online programming, regional in-person hubs, and focused policy dialogues supporting the expansion into low- and middle-income countries. Together, we are strengthening global collaboration, promoting gender-sensitive implementation of the SDGs, and ensuring that science systems deliver equitable and socially relevant impacts.

Goals

- Enhance multistakeholder engagement to examine how gender biases affect research outcomes.
- Promote cross-disciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration for joint action.
- Expand the global presence and capacity of the GS platform through a hybrid approach, expanding to low- and middle-income countries where possible.

Activities and milestones

- Conducted eight consultation workshops in the USA and Canada as part of the global Roadmap 2.0 consultation process (out of 10 planned), despite disruption following the withdrawal of NSF funding.
- Held four additional international Roadmap 2.0 workshops (EU/Germany, South Korea, Japan and Mexico), with one further workshop scheduled for Brazil in 2026.
- Launched the regional GS-India platform with a two-day online event in November 2025 and planned an in-person Summit in New Delhi, hosted by the Indian National Academy of Science on March 10, 2026.
- Strengthened partnerships supporting gender-sensitive SDG implementation, including collaboration with UN Women, the World Bank, and the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa.
- Elizabeth Pollitzer, Director of Portia has served on Elsevier's Global Research Cultures Advisory Board since 2020, sharing her expertise, networks and findings from the Gender Summit legacy with Elsevier's leaders and their mission to advance inclusive health and research within the organization.

Looking ahead

Our partnership will continue consolidating lessons from more than a decade of Gender Summit dialogue to demonstrate where progress has been made and where persistent inequalities remain. In 2026 and 2027, we will extend global consultations to develop regionally sensitive versions of Roadmap 2.0 and strengthen institutional commitments to equity for all.

Portia will also deepen collaboration across Africa and India, expand the network of Gender Summits and expert contributors, and further embed hybrid participation models to increase inclusion, sustainability and geographic reach.



Impact at a glance



25

Gender Summit events delivered globally across 18 countries since 2011



50

days of dialogue, 1,200 speakers and 9,000 participants to date



12

organizations committed to host Roadmap 2.0 consultation workshops

