

Scientific diplomacy to foster Atlantic Interactions: Establishing the *Atlantic International Research Centre - AIR Centre*

Washington, June 14, 9am-1pm

Background Information

The Washington symposium, in June 14, is aimed to discuss progress associated with the establishment the *AIR Centre* in terms of its goals to promote an integrative approach to space, climate change and energy, earth and ocean science in the Atlantic, fostered by emerging methods of data science, and to be continuously promoted in close alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It considers the following topics, without prejudicing their re-formulation or the inclusion of other pertinent topics to be identified:

- a) **Marine Resources and Biodiversity:** Promote Sustainable Fisheries, offshore aquaculture and ecosystem valorization;
- b) **Healthy and Clean Ocean:** Observing, modelling and monitoring oceans and coastal areas for a better management of the Atlantic resources and the protection of related marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts.
- c) **Systems integration from outer space to Deep Ocean:** development, integration and use of sensors, devices and systems;
- d) **Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change:** including resilience of cities and coastal areas, disaster risk reduction and regional planning;
- e) **Sustainable Energy Systems:** including but not limited to marine renewable energy and the study of a transatlantic Ultra-High Voltage electrical connection between the Iberian Peninsula, Africa and Brazil.
- f) **Data science, artificial intelligence and learning systems for ocean, atmosphere dynamics and climate issues:** matching data producers and user needs.

A Cross-cutting Work Plan of initiatives is supporting the development of the Scientific Program of the AIR Centre in close cooperation with all relevant parts, to be approved in the **Canary Islands in November 2018** and aligned with the Belem Statement (July 2017) signed between the European Commission, Brazil and South Africa and the associated concerted and support actions. They can include, among others:

- a) Developing coordinated actions to implement common standards for data sharing, using existing supranational e-infrastructures to test them.
- b) Defining Transatlantic alliances of clusters, coastal cities, infrastructures, and research centres to provide solutions for coastal regions and cities of the South Atlantic Ocean in mitigating carbon emissions, adapting to the challenges of climate change, creating jobs, and promoting blue economy
- c) Sharing infrastructures and defining mobility and training programs
- d) Aligning scientific policies to enhance ocean innovation or identifying and developing academia-industry knowledge transfer and encouraging collective capacity building measures.

Three major events and a wide set of workshops and events of scientific diplomacy in the last two years (June 2016-June 2018) has facilitated an effective process of scientific diplomacy to foster Atlantic Interactions, which has resulted in a global process for establishing the *Atlantic International Research Centre - AIR Centre*.

Recently, the “**Third High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions**”, held in Praia, **Cabo Verde, 7-8 May 2018**, has confirmed the progress achieved in establishing the AIR Centre, namely the contributions to a R&D agenda on “Atlantic Interactions”, including an outline of the Scientific Program and the preliminary identification of the first technical initiatives of the AIR Centre, and the setting up of a non-profit association to promote the AIR Centre, in a way to provide, promote and foster the bases of a truly international scientific agenda, organization and workforce.

Before that, the commitment reached in the “**Second High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions**”, held in **Florianópolis Brasil 20-21 November 2017**, regarding the establishment of the AIR Centre - Atlantic International Research Centre, as an internationally distributed scientific organization across Atlantic countries, with international legal status, in association with scientific and research organizations worldwide, to be established in a stepwise process towards full institutional and scientific autonomy.

It should also be noted that the conclusions of the “**First High Level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions**”, held in **Terceira, Azores-Portugal, 20-21 April 2017**, that determined the establishment of an innovative R&D agenda on “Atlantic Interactions” in a way to promote an holistic, integrative and systemic approach to space, atmosphere, oceans, climate change and energy, earth and ocean science in the Atlantic, together with emerging methods of data science, while fostering an inclusive perspective to science, technology and economic development to better understand emerging issues of climate change affecting our plants and the lives, prosperity and wellbeing of our citizens.

The series of three “High Level Industry-Science-Government Dialogues on Atlantic Interactions” mentioned above was made possible after the organization of more than 30 thematic workshops organized throughout the world in the last two years, as initiated in **June 10, 2016 in New York City**, at the Institute of International education, IIE.

The Washington symposium in the 14th of June 2018 will discuss the progress achieved in the installation of the *AIR Centre* and will open a new opportunity to deepening new frontiers of knowledge and wellbeing in association with an innovative and integrative approach to space, climate change and energy, earth and ocean science in the Atlantic.

More information at www.atlanticinteractions.org

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DRAFT Program

(version of June 08; to be confirmed)

Session 1 (9:00 a.m.): Welcome and Introduction

- Welcome Remarks (5 m): Frederico Nascimento, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Portugal in Washington D.C.
- Introductory remarks (40 m):
 - **Jared Banks**, Department of State, Office of Science and Technology Cooperation (TBC)
 - **Antonio Sarmento**, Chair of the AIR Centre Installation Committee
 - **Luciana Mancini**, Science Attaché, Embassy of Brazil in Washington D.C. (TBC)
- Debate (15 m)

Session 2 (10:00 a.m.): Implementing the AIR Centre – on the progress achieved

- Chair (5 m): **Bruno Pacheco**, President, Regional Fund for Science and Technology
- Invited Discussants (40 m):
 - **John Leonard**, Director of MIT's Marine Robotics Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - **José Moura**, Carnegie Mellon University (TBC)
 - **Vitor Mulas**, Agenda on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Cities at the World Bank Group's Trade & Competitiveness Global.
 - **Burke Fort**, Space Center at the University of Texas at Austin
 - **Lorenzo Carrera**, Disaster Risk Management Specialist at The World Bank
- Debate (15 m)

Coffee Break (11:00 a.m.)

Session 3 (11:30 a.m.): Implementing the AIR Centre – engaging the US

- Chair and brief presentation (5 m): **Jerry L. Miller**, President, Science for Decisions.
- Invited Discussants (40 m):
 - **Kim Nitschke**, Los Alamos National Laboratory
 - **Sally MacFarlane**, US Dept of Energy, ARM Program Manager
 - **Eduardo Brito Azevedo**, University of Azores, ARM Project Manager
 - **Paul DiGiacomo**, Division Chief, Satellite Oceanography & Climatology Division, NOAA
 - **Gregory Jenkins**, Penn State, USA
- Debate (15 m)

12:30: Closing Lunch

- **Manuel Heitor** – Portuguese Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education