



COSPAR Weekly Update 6 March 2023

This week, on 8 March, we celebrate International Women's Day. Did you know there is now an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) initiative in COSPAR to combat discrimination? And a [task group](#) to develop a stronger culture of diversity and inclusion within COSPAR? One of their first actions has been to set up a session on IDEA in COSPAR Capacity Building Workshops to raise awareness about these issues. The first of these sessions was in January in Antofagasta, Chile.

Some of the participants thought we were on the right track:

"...those matters need to be talked about, and good for COSPAR for including that opportunity."

"A roundtable like IDEA seems to be a great space to acknowledge the problematics and lack of inclusion of different groups in the academic world..."

While others gave us valuable feedback on where we need to improve:

"...However it was more like another lecture than an exchange of experiences, ideas and solution proposals and there was no diversity among the people who organized this roundtable." Our response: We'll make sure there's a more diverse group of speakers for the next Workshop in South Korea in May.

"It would be better to have a real discussion session instead of only have lectures about it. It would be great like a debate panel with students and lecturers." Our response: The Workshop will include active discussions, rather than one-way lectures.

We appreciate both types of comment as they are key for us to grow as an organisation.

Your feedback is also vital in this process—do you have any suggestions to help COSPAR address gender equity and make our community more diverse? Would you like to learn more about the IDEA Initiative Task Group? Then [please contact us](#).



Meet the [COSPAR IDEA Coordination Officer](#), Mary Snitch from Lockheed Martin, and check out the [IDEA Task Group](#)—now with 36 active members—to find out what it is doing to encourage gender equity—as well as inclusion, diversity and accessibility within COSPAR.