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Editorial.....



Science education from an early age gives appetite for research and encourages people to pursue scientific careers, which is essential for the development of humanity. Moreover, the scientific methods and curiosity can be brought to many other areas of personal, professional and social life, which contributes to the education of responsible and autonomous citizens.

Basic sciences help to identify mechanisms to adequately use knowledge and transfer technology.

The States that agreed to Agenda 2030 recognize this, since they have at the same time created the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. In particular, the latter organizes the annual Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals.

Basic sciences have an important contribution to make to the implementation of this program. They provide the essential means to meet crucial challenges such as universal access to food, energy, health coverage and communication technologies. They enable us to understand the impact of the currently nearly 8 billion people on the planet and to act to limit, and sometimes even to reduce it: depletion of the ozone layer, climate change, depletion of natural resources, extinction of living species.

Applications of technology are easy to recognize. On the other hand, contributions of basic, curiosity-based, sciences are not well appreciated. They are nonetheless at the basis of major technological advances that stimulate innovation, as well as essential for training future professionals and for developing capacity of populations who can take part in decisions that affect their future.

Agenda 2030, adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly, is an integrated vision for the sustainable development of all the world's populations. It is articulated into 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards which we must collectively strive. All SDGs require the input of science and technology.

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James Webb Space Telescope taken on March 5, 2020.

Credits: NASA/Chris Gunn