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**AWIS Focuses on the Need to Hire and Retain Women in STEM Professions  
during International Day of Women and Girls in Science at UN**

**WASHINGTON, DC, February 12, 2019** – In honor of International Day of Women and Girls in Science, AWIS National Governing Board President Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister presented on why talent will be the key to global competitive advantage in STEM-driven economies at the international forum hosted by the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT). Dr. Windham-Bannister was among the key speakers at the High-Level Panel on Investing in Science and Technology Education for Shaping Society’s Future on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 10:00 am at the United Nations.

“Women earn over 40 percent of STEM degrees, yet only comprise 26 percent of the STEM workforce. AWIS research shows that a number of cultural and systemic biases and barriers negatively impact women in STEM,” said Dr. Windham-Bannister. “Given that women represent half of the world’s population, the inclusion of women in the STEM talent pool is not just an issue of social justice – it is an economic imperative.”

Dr. Windham-Bannister also shared AWIS best practices, research and applied solutions which broaden participation and retention of women in science. She called on policymakers worldwide to support women along career pathways, create equitable workplace policies and practices, and recognize, compensate and promote women for their achievements in the industry.

The proceedings of Dr. Windham-Bannister’s speech were seen on UNWebTV at <http://webtv.un.org>.

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***About AWIS***

The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is a global network with 80 grassroots chapters and affiliates connecting more than 100,000 professionals in STEM with members, allies and supporters worldwide. Founded in 1971, AWIS has been the leading advocate for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to achieve business growth, social change, and innovation. We are dedicated to driving excellence in STEM by achieving equity and full participation of women in all disciplines and across all employment sectors. To learn more, visit [www.awis.org](http://www.awis.org) and [@awisnational](https://twitter.com/awisnational).