

Special Lectures of The World Cultural Council
São Francisco Convent Cultural Center
November 29th

Welcome Note by Amílcar Falcão
Rector of the University of Coimbra

Mayor of Coimbra City Hall, Dr. José Manuel Silva
Honorable President of the World Cultural Council, Sir Fraser Stoddart
2022 Laureates and Speakers
Students, Teachers and Researchers from the University and Coimbra,
from the High Schools Infanta D. Maria, D. Duarte, and Avelar Brotero,
from the Colleges São Teotónio and Rainha Santa
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

The University of Coimbra is extremely pleased and honored to host, for the first time, in Portugal, the 37th World Cultural Council Award Ceremony. The 2022 Award Ceremony itself will take place tomorrow, in the Sala dos Capelos, and will be marked by the special solemnity of a great institutional act. But today, at the São Francisco Convent Cultural Center, next to the Mondego river, an equally significant and important event is taking place: the Special Lectures of the World Cultural Council.

Because of your commitment and generosity, hundreds of students, educators and researchers, as well as members of society in general, will have today the opportunity to hear the life testimony and benefit from the direct intellectual stimulus of exceptional speakers. This is the case of Professor Victoria M. Kaspi (winner of the “Albert Einstein” World Award of Science), Professor Claudia Mitchell (winner of the “José Vasconcelos” World Award of Education), and Professor Jeannie Meejin Yoon (winner of the “Leonardo da Vinci” World Award of Arts).

The three 2022 Laureates will be joined by the lectures by two Nobel Laureates: Professor Sir Fraser Stoddart (President of the WCC and Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

2016), and Professor David Gross (Nobel Laureate in Physics 2004 and Member of the WCC).

It is in such examples of an outstanding professional and personal path that we all can find the stimulus to overcome the challenges that accompany any process of growth and maturation. Because excellence is built on strong passions and genuine dedication. And it is also in examples of excellence that lies the inspiration capable of turning the most improbable dreams into reality.

Let me conclude by expressing the wish that we can promote a culture of tolerance, peace and fraternity, in a more sustainable world, as they are essential pillars shared by the common values of the WCC and the University of Coimbra.