# International Day of Light

International day of light

Type secular

Date 16 may

Frequency annual

Started by UNESCO

* per [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO), is to strengthen cooperation and leverage its potential to foster peace and development.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-1) Light-based technologies play an important role in education, science, art, culture, sustainable development, communications, energy and medicine.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-3) The annual celebration is organized by UNESCO[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-5)

## **History**

The first International Day of Light celebration was organized by UNESCO on May 16, 2018,[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-first-6) the anniversary of the day in 1960 when engineer and physicist Theodore Maiman successfully fired the first laser.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-:0-7)

The International Day of Light followed the [International Year of Light](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Year_of_Light) in 2015. The Day was proposed by Ghana, Mexico, New Zealand and the Russian Federation and was supported by UNESCO's Executive Board. The UNESCO General Conference approved the proposal in November 2017.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-first-6)

## **Purpose**

The study of light, and light-based technologies, has helped us transform our world in extraordinary ways. Light-based technologies include microscopes, X-ray machines, telescopes, cameras, electric lights and television screens. [[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-:0-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Light#cite_note-8) The International Day of Light is intended to promote scientific cooperation and to harness the potential of science to foster peace and sustainable development.