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**EUROPE**  
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# **RECIPROCITY AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF RESEARCH COLLABORATION**

## WORLD SCIENCE FORUM

PLENARY SESSION IV – COOPERATION, COORDINATION  
AND GOVERNANCE IN SCIENCE – 22 NOVEMBER 2024

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# Reciprocity in Multilateral Research Collaboration

## Why do we need reciprocity?

The co-creation of a human-centered, peaceful, common future is urgently needed.

This approach contributes to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, and addresses the world's most pressing challenges.

Reciprocity in multilateral research collaboration, however, requires that we challenge our current ways of collaborating and to go beyond the existing modus operandi.

In this process, research free from interference, and equitable access to scientific information are prerequisites.

Conclusions on “Reciprocity in Multilateral Research Collaboration”

UN Science Summit, 18 September 2024, New York

<https://scienceeurope.org/our-resources/conclusions-science-summit-reciprocity-event/>



# ELEMENTS OF RECIPROCITY IN MULTILATERAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

- Achieving reciprocity in multilateral research collaborations requires a **radical shift in perspective**, by placing **people and their diverse backgrounds at the heart** of equitable partnerships.
- Building and maintaining relationships in trustful environments requires time. **Co-creation initiatives only move “at the speed of trust.”**
- **A commitment Open Science is also vital**, as it is the only way to ensure equitable access to scientific knowledge and information
- **Training researchers** in enhanced inclusive collaboration methods is crucial to the culture of reciprocity.
- **Indigenous knowledges should be better embraced** as they provide perspectives that help understand and tackle global challenges in ways that conventional science does not fully capture.
- Enabling factors in co-operation includes facilitating logistical aspects, such as **easing the visa process**







# SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS ON AFRICA-EUROPE AND LATIN-AMERICA EUROPE COLLABORATION

- **'Decolonise partnerships'** and promote a fair and equalitarian approach guided by humility, respect, and reciprocity.
- **Define truly joint research agendas:** The research agenda is designed in Europe and primarily for the benefit of Europe – this is not a good for reciprocal cooperation
- Cooperation in a global society requires **time and diplomacy**
- Not the only problem, however the obtaining **scholar Visas** is a significant barrier to collaboration
- **Building research capacity is of essence** to close inequalities across the world.

## Dialogues involving National Research Funding Organisations and Research Performing Organisations

Africa-Europe Research Collaboration, 30 October 2024, Estonia

Building on outcomes of the 2023 Science Europe High Level Workshop, Madrid, 30 November 2023

<https://scienceeurope.org/our-resources/2023-high-level-workshop-report/>

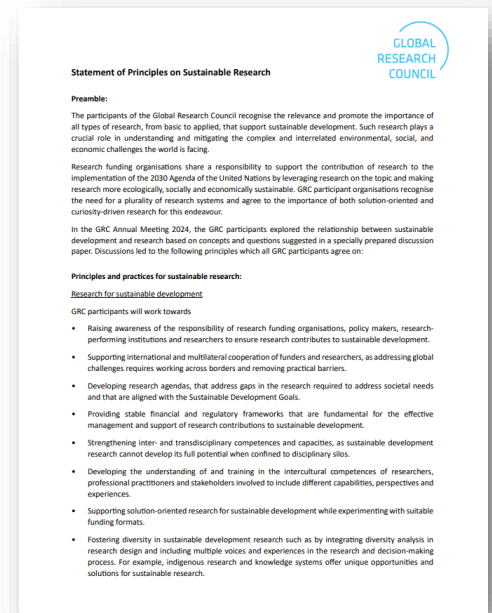


# THE 2024 GRC STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH

- Supporting international and multilateral cooperation of funders and researchers, as addressing global challenges requires **working across borders and removing practical barriers**.
- Fostering diversity in sustainable development research by integrating diversity analysis in research design and **including multiple voices and experiences in the research and decision-making process**.
- **Indigenous research and knowledge systems** offer unique opportunities and solutions for sustainable research.
- Enabling equitable partnerships and community involvement that strengthen reciprocal collaboration by **building on the capacities, perspectives and knowledge that each partner** contributes to create more level playing fields
- Building trust between stakeholders, including local communities, policymakers, public and private enterprises to foster collaboration and **knowledge transfer**.

Global Research Council, Interlaken Switzerland, May 2024

[https://globalresearchcouncil.org/fileadmin//user\\_upload/GRC\\_2024\\_Statement\\_of\\_Principles.pdf](https://globalresearchcouncil.org/fileadmin//user_upload/GRC_2024_Statement_of_Principles.pdf)



# REMARKS ON COOPERATION, COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE IN SCIENCE

- A **great deal of consensus** on needs and views from the researcher community.
- Research Funding Organisations must provide space for **embedding reciprocity in their collaborations** including co-design from the outset of programme concept.
- Research Performing Organisations can engage in **awareness-raising** and help to define a **code of conduct on equitable partnerships**
- A role for **G7 and G20** research funding systems
- **Open Science** and **research security** need to be carefully debated
- **Showcase to politicians the tangible outcomes of research** – propose how root, structural and institutional causes will be addressed
- Implementation of elements of **reciprocity in research collaboration** programmes is urgent