



Science Europe Statement

*Reciprocity and equity should guide stronger research collaboration
between Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean*

7 December 2023

Science Europe, the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), and the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (MCIU) organised the [2023 High Level Workshop on the European Research Area](#) on 29 and 30 November. The event brought together policy makers and researchers from the Global North and Global South to discuss how to boost international scientific collaboration between Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

International co-operation in research and innovation is crucial for advancing the frontiers of knowledge and innovation, as well as maximising their economic and societal impact. As highlighted in the 2022 [Marseille Declaration](#), it is of geopolitical and strategic importance for Europe. However, biases and prejudices against researchers and institutions from the Global South, unequal access to scientific knowledge and data, imbalanced appropriation of outputs, difficulties related to researchers' mobility, limited engagement with local communities, and lack of research infrastructure and capacity remain issues that hinder genuine co-operation.

Building sustainable, reciprocal, and equitable partnerships requires addressing these issues together and developing mutually beneficial collaboration. Guided by the fact that science is a common good, as argued by the UN Secretary General in [Our Common Agenda](#), changes in research culture and the current European political climate (which is becoming increasingly closed to the Global South) are needed.

Building on the discussions that took place during the High Level Workshop, Science Europe reiterates the importance of international collaboration in research and innovation, and to continue building strong relations between the Global North and the Global South, guided by a shared commitment to principles of academic freedom and scientific integrity. Against that backdrop, it calls on European institutions, national governments, and research organisations to:

- ✦ Work in partnership with partners from Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean to develop and build co-operation that is truly mutually beneficial. This means putting the voices, knowledge, and expertise of Global South researchers, institutions, and communities on equal footing with those of the Global North in those partnerships.
- ✦ Improve and adapt scientific structures and practices to ensure that researchers and institutions in the Global South have equal access to the outputs, knowledge, and data, including through reform of the scholarly publication system.
- ✦ Address discrimination, inequalities, and biases affecting researchers from Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean within their processes and activities – in particular, difficulties associated with obtaining visas and work permits, unequal access to funding, differential treatment, and discriminatory attitudes from Global North partners.
- ✦ Develop more collaborative programmes, calls, and projects through genuine co-creation processes that meaningfully involve partners from Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean from the start.