



World Science Forum 2022

Declaration on Science for Social Justice – Towards Action

18 July 2023 (Mandela Day)

Science for Social Justice

- Ensuring resources, opportunities and privileges in society are accessible to all, and distributed in a fair manner:
 - At the heart of South Africa's new Decadal Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation;
 - The key objective of Democratic South Africa's Constitution; and
 - Translates the values of Ubuntu into practice.

Why, What and How of Declaration

- Why: Need to capture main discussions and recommendations of the Forum, to inspire and guide further action
- What: Not a legal binding document, adopted by acclamation in the name of the WSF 2022 participants – a personal commitment by those who feel inspired and engaged by it
- How: It is up to us! Today first opportunity to consider, commit and action responses – individually and collectively

Outline of Declaration

- Preamble
 - History of World Science Forum
 - Acknowledge organizing partners
- Context: Science for Social Justice – a responsibility, an opportunity and a commitment
 - Narrative regarding motivation for choice of theme

Responsibility, opportunity & commitment

- We therefore commit for our actions to be **guided by the values of Ubuntu** that is respecting the universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity, as well as by human rights principles and standards, and to working together to harness the power of science to achieve the ambitions of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which underpin social justice.
- We also undertake in our respective spheres of influence and responsibility, for **our policy- and decision-making with regard to the advancement of social justice, to be guided and informed by robust scientific data**, evidence and advice.
- We will prioritize efforts to support the ***translation of research results***, through both technological and social innovation, to be applied for the benefit of all of society in support of social justice.
- We will safeguard, nourish and promote the unique ability of **science to inspire progress, to foster tolerance, to unite, and to care for the vulnerable**, through concerted public engagement and communication actions, **building awareness and understanding of the role of science in support of social justice.**

Five strategic themes (plenary sessions)

- Science for human dignity - What role for science in fighting poverty, unemployment, inequality and exclusion?
- Science for climate justice - How can science working with civil society lead the way in correcting the failure of climate policy?
- Science for Africa and the world - How to unleash the potential of African science in global cooperation?
- Science for diplomacy - How can science reboot multilateralism and global solidarity?
- Justice in science - How to ensure science reflects the society we want?

Science for human dignity - What role for science in fighting poverty, unemployment, inequality and exclusion?

- We call for **science funding agencies to foster a step change towards interdisciplinary, multiscale and inclusive research agendas informing pathways to greater equality, and to develop a global science agenda concerted on poverty alleviation.** We commit our efforts to support it.
- We acknowledge the important role of science in ensuring **advanced technologies create new opportunities and do not marginalize anyone.**
- We underscore the importance of ethical scientific endeavors and will strive for our actions to be informed by international agreements such as the **Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence of UNESCO** that aims at guiding technological developments to deliver inclusive, sustainable and fair outcomes.
- We call for **increased investment in education and science, recognizing that basic science, as celebrated by the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development, constitutes the foundations of future innovations,** economic prosperity, and societies strengthened by solidarity and democracy.
- We call for **renewed support for the social sciences and humanities,** as these disciplines play a vital role in understanding societal challenges, including the role of harm reduction science, which informs greater empathy for people with addictions, helping us to shape a more equal and inclusive world.

Science for climate justice - How can science working with civil society lead the way in correcting the failure of climate policy?

- We call for the **reinforcement of the participation of civil society in the shaping of the global science agenda for climate justice**, which will ensure the representation, inclusion, and protection of the rights of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.
- We **urge investment in scientific solutions that promote equity, assure access to basic resources, and ensure that future generations can live**, learn, play and work in healthy and clean environments. In this regard, we recognize the recommendations of the IAP Report on Global Health Inequalities: Research for a fairer future.
- We commit to the principles enshrined in the **UNESCO Declaration on the Ethics of Climate Change**.
- We acknowledge the importance of support for **technology transfer to, skills development in, and scientific collaboration with developing countries**, in support of climate action.
- We are cognizant that what we need for advancing a just climate transition, is knowledge about values, decision-making, behavioral change, underpinned not only by the natural sciences and technology, **but also by strong support for the social and human sciences**.
- We **recognise that our children will bear the brunt of climate breakdown, ecosystem collapse and the ravages of forced migration, we therefore commit to putting the best interests of future generations at the very centre of our science, policy, research programmes and social justice agenda**.

Science for Africa and the world - How to unleash the potential of African science in global cooperation?

- We call for **global science programmes**, including in frontier sciences and those traditionally dominated by developed countries, **to be more inclusive, and for those framework conditions, which may discourage the active participation of especially African scientists, to be addressed.**
- We **acknowledge and celebrate the excellence and achievements of African science** as a resource for humanity. We recognize that **more could be done by African and other developing-world nations to support science**, including by accelerating their efforts to achieve their own commitments to increase investment in science, technology and innovation.
- We support continued **investment in capacity-building programmes for African science**, including research infrastructure partnerships, researcher mobility and training schemes, and other cooperation instruments.
- We support the **creation of pan-African technological innovation hubs** to cooperate with other research organisations, to foster inclusive and sustainable research practices effectively addressing the needs of civil society.
- We call for international collaboration schemes that make sure that **investment made in science by developing countries, with special emphasis on the training of researchers is preserved** and shall not become unwarranted by alarming trends of brain drain.

Science for diplomacy - How can science reboot multilateralism and global solidarity?

- We acknowledge the importance of **science diplomacy** as an instrument for **peace**, and call for the values of science, to inspire a greater commitment to **global collaboration and solidarity**.
- We urge the **global science diplomacy community** to **enshrine continuity** in its internal and external engagement structures and to ensure that changing political and multilateral environments do not hamper its ability to communicate and advise.
- We call for investment in **researcher mobility programmes, especially for young scientists, to build people-to-people relations** as a response to increased geopolitical tension and insecurity.
- We call for the reinforcement of the role of science as enabler for collaboration **within multilateral programmes, and to strengthen especially the institutions of the United Nations** and their role in these.

Justice in science - How to ensure science reflects the society we want?

- We recognize the need for **the scientific enterprise to evolve to make it more responsive to the needs of society**, without neglecting our commitment to invest in the basic sciences, as an investment in the future.
- We reaffirm our determination to advance **science as a global public good**, and accept our mutual responsibility to **ensure the free and responsible conduct of science**.
- We call for greater **inclusivity in science, systematic and concerted efforts to eliminate gender and racial imbalances in the scientific enterprise** and remedies for exclusion which denies opportunities for full participation in science.
- We also urge for concrete and impactful actions that contribute to reducing the **gender gap** in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- We recognize the **crucial role of early career scientists** in advancing science for social justice and therefore call for enhanced support for their career development and engagement in science policymaking, including through support for the Global Young Academy and national young academies.

Justice in science - How to ensure science reflects the society we want? (2)

- We stress the importance of **the UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers**, which promotes human rights, inclusivity, freedom and responsibility in science to guide the response to this Declaration.
- We acknowledge the importance of the **UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science** and call for support for its implementation especially to advance the objectives related to Open Access and Open Data.
- We accept our mutual responsibility to ensure **integrity and respect for the ethical conduct of science**.
- We commit to respond decisively to the **“Science for Social Justice” Call to Action as set out in this Declaration**.

Social Justice – imperative, opportunity, destiny

- “Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.”
- “Do not look the other way; do not hesitate. Recognize that the world is hungry for action, not words. Act with courage and vision.”
- “Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom.”



- *Former President Nelson Mandela, Trafalgar Square, London, 2005*
- *Make Poverty History Campaign*

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- #Science4SocialJustice