



KEY RESULTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

“SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITS”

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Science diplomacy is the practice of using scientific collaboration to build international relationships and address shared challenges. It often requires cooperation at multiple levels, from governments to individual scientists. Especially in fast-evolving fields like AI and biotechnology, academic partnership can accelerate the pace of research and innovation. Cross-border scientific collaboration also has the potential to bridge gaps between nations with differing political systems or values, strengthen democratic values, and promote global stability. Challenges in science diplomacy include balancing national interests with scientific freedom, navigating sanctions, and managing the risks of collaborating with regimes that may not share the same values. Cooperation between the EU and China to combat climate change demonstrates the importance of setting aside political differences to achieve shared goals.

THE EXPERT PANEL ARTICULATES THE FOLLOWING CALLS TO ACTION:

Collaborate across political divides.

- 1 — Prioritise cross-border cooperation on shared issues like climate change to advance global stability and common goals.

Support people-to-people collaboration.

- 2 — Encourage individual connections between scientists across borders, as this can encourage mutual understanding and keep research moving forward despite political tensions.

Encourage support for science diplomacy among decision-makers.

- 3 — Build support for scientific collaboration to keep channels of communication open and support the continued flow of knowledge and innovation in times of conflict.

Protect academic freedom for scientists worldwide.

- 4 — Develop mechanisms to provide funding, relocation opportunities, and institutional support for scientists who are facing repression.

This expert panel is supported by Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation and assembled in the framework of the Falling Walls Science Summit 2024 in Berlin. The Falling Walls Science Summit is a leading international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral forum for scientific breakthroughs. It commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall and aims to promote dialogue between science and society.

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