



#### KEY RESULTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

## “TRUST & DEMOCRACY” (RESTORING TRUST: BUILDING DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE)

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In democratic systems, power rests with citizens, who must be well-informed and equipped to exercise this power effectively. Building a resilient democracy relies on active civic participation, strong media literacy and transparent communication between science, government and the public. Fostering media literacy from an early age is important for combating disinformation, especially as media consumption habits change and people are increasingly exposed to a mix of reliable information and biased or false content. Approaches like citizens' assemblies, which encourage broad participation, can ultimately build a more robust democratic culture by increasing representation and countering the tendency for political decisions to disproportionately favour the affluent.

#### THE EXPERT PANEL ARTICULATES THE FOLLOWING CALLS TO ACTION:

##### Improve media literacy.

- 1 — Equip citizens from an early age with media literacy skills to improve their ability to combat disinformation and make informed decisions.

##### Share knowledge beyond the ivory tower.

- 2 — Actively communicate scientific research and findings to the public to highlight the importance of evidence-based knowledge in democratic decision-making.

##### Promote innovative civic engagement.

- 3 — Implement tools like citizens' assemblies where appropriate to encourage equal representation, empower citizens in decision-making, and modernise democratic processes.

##### Make civic engagement opportunities accessible to all.

- 4 — Provide financial support, childcare, and other resources to ensure that all citizens can participate fully in civic initiatives.

*This expert panel is supported by Stiftung Mercator 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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