

## **GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL VISION AND ROADMAP**

### **2021 Regional Meeting Discussion Paper**

#### **Purpose**

This paper presents a new Vision and Roadmap for the Global Research Council for the next decade, which will be presented and discussed at the 2021 series of Regional Meetings.

**GRC Regional Meeting participants are invited to consider and discuss the new Vision and in particular what activities the GRC, and its participant organisations, might pursue to deliver the Vision and its Objectives to populate the development of an accompanying Roadmap.**

#### **Background**

At the last Annual Meeting, participants discussed a new draft Vision for the Global Research Council.

The draft vision had been developed following a strategic conversation initiated by the Governing Board at the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting in São Paulo, Brazil and following conversation at the 2019 series of Regional Meetings.

Overall participants warmly welcomed and endorsed the draft new Vision, Mission and Objectives set out at **Annex I**.

Discussion therefore focused on what activities the GRC and its participant organisations might pursue in order to deliver the Vision, Mission and Objectives, and to populate an accompanying Roadmap.

The Governing Board has agreed that further discussion on the Vision and Roadmap should take place at the 2021 Regional Meetings, with a focus on getting participants input on the development of the Roadmap. The Governing Board will then approve a final version of the Vision document at its meeting in March 2022.

The first full version of the Roadmap will be prepared in light of comments at the Regional Meetings and will be presented and discussed by GRC participants at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in May 2022 in Panama.

#### **Discussion – Development of Roadmap**

Attached at **Annex II** is an early draft Roadmap, which has been developed following discussion at the Annual Meeting.

The intention is that the Roadmap will set out activities/ actions the GRC and its participant organisations will take in pursuit of its objectives with milestones. It will be a living document regularly reviewed by the Executive Support Group and the Governing Board, with an annual progress report given to GRC participants at Annual Meetings.

The draft Roadmap reflects many of the points made by participants, and in some cases plans and action is underway, for example:

- Several GRC participants commented that it would be helpful to have some standard GRC information and communication materials. A GRC Communications Task Force has been established and has been developing a Communications Pack which can be used by GRC participants.
- It was suggested that contact with participant organisations could be strengthened through dedicated points of contact, supported with standard information. The Executive Secretary will be inviting GRC participant organisations to nominate dedicated Points of Contact who will as a first action will be provided with the new Communications Pack.

- There was a desire to enhance the role of and engagement in Regional Meetings. Therefore, it is proposed to establish a Task and Finish Group of past Regional Hosts and the ESG to identify and share best practice between Regions and develop additional proposals.

Regional Meeting participants are invited to discuss the following questions, although all comments and suggestions are welcome at this stage:

1. What does the Vision and its objectives mean to GRC participants, especially at the regional level, what role do participants see themselves playing in helping the GRC to realise it?
2. How can we increase the impact and uptake of the GRC's Statement of Principles by participant organisations? Can we build upon the case study and working group models, do participant organisations find them valuable?
3. What role should and can the GRC play in the future in terms of actively facilitating and promoting greater bilateral and multilateral collaboration between participant organisations?
4. Should the GRC have thematic discussions on new and emerging areas of science and technology with a focus on the opportunities for international collaboration and the challenges they present for science policy? Do you have any suggestions?
5. Is the current 'virtual' model sustainable, is it time to consider alternative models for the GRC to be able realise its Vision, even if this meant a subscription model?

In discussing activities to deliver the Vision it is important to recognise that at present the GRC is a virtual organisation with no membership fees, and a light touch secretariat provided pro-bono by a participant organisation. The GRC operates on the good will of its participant organisations in offering to host meetings and support the attendance and participation of their personnel at meetings, events and working groups; and activities on the GRCs behalf.

Therefore, any activities must be deliverable within that context, unless the GRC develops more formal structures. Therefore, GRC participant organisations should consider what they/ their organisations can/ will do to deliver the Vision, and what broader structures may be necessary to facilitate such ambitions.

## **Contacts**

The Executive Secretary also welcomes comments from participant organisations outside of the Regional Meeting discussions. These can be emailed, by **31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**, to [grc@ukri.org](mailto:grc@ukri.org)

## VISION & ROADMAP

### *A New Decade for the Global Research Council*

#### **Preamble**

Since 2012 the Global Research Council (GRC) has enabled heads of science and engineering funding agencies from around the world to come together to discuss common issues and promote the sharing of data and best practice, with the aim of promoting high-quality international research collaboration.

Over the last 10 years participation in the GRC has increased, with greater representation from across its Regions, meaning that the GRC has become a truly global body. As the GRC enters its next decade, its participants recognise that the drivers which brought its founders together to establish the organisation remain as strong as ever. As we move into the next 10 years of the GRC's existence, it is also important to reflect and ensure that the GRC continues to support its participant's interests and needs as a global forum of science funding agencies.

The most pressing societal and economic challenges we face today are global in nature. Research and innovation have a critical role to play in providing the solutions that society needs to overcome these global challenges, such as environmental change, healthy ageing, heritage and conservation and clean energy. Through international collaboration, researchers and innovators can address global challenges at a much greater scale, pooling expertise and avoiding duplication of effort; achieving mutually beneficial outcomes that would not be possible in isolation.

Research quality, research integrity and ethical behaviour lie at the heart of excellent research and development. They are also key if researchers are able to trust and build on the work of others and are crucial if researchers are to be trusted by society to address global challenges. At a time of increasing international cooperation, funders must work with international partners to ensure that the research they collectively support is conducted in accordance with the highest possible international standards. As the recent COVID 19 pandemic has shown, there is also the need for funders to consider more carefully the interplay between science and society, and how the scientific community engages and communicates with the public.

As a virtual organisation with no membership fees, and a light touch secretariat provided pro-bono by a participant organisation. The GRC operates on the good will of its participant organisations in offering to host meetings and support the attendance and participation of their personnel at meetings, events and working groups; and activities on the GRCs behalf. The GRC therefore only exists if its participant organisations derive value and benefit from it, and thus are prepared to engage and support its activities.

#### **Vision and Mission**

Our collective vision is that research and innovation play a leading role in providing the solutions that society needs to overcome the global and interconnected challenges of our time.

Our mission is to work in partnership to create the conditions in which international research cooperation and collaboration can thrive.

By doing so we enable researchers to develop international partnerships to deliver excellent research, which impacts positively on the lives and well-being of citizens from across the globe.

Through the GRC we will jointly promote a robust and responsible international research and innovation ecosystem which promotes the benefits of international collaboration and maintains public trust in the reliability of the research that we fund.

#### **Objectives**

Over the next decade, we will deliver this vision through the pursuit of the following objectives:

1. Maintain our primary role as a forum for research councils to share data and best practice, as well as discussing issues of common concern and mutual strategic priority.
2. Actively facilitate and promote bilateral and multilateral collaboration between participant organisations, in order to support the global science enterprise and the world-wide research community and address global challenges.
3. Champion a more equitable, diverse, sustainable and inclusive future to harnesses the diversity of talent which can contribute to the research and innovation enterprise.
4. Share experience and best practice in engaging and communicating with society and the public; so that science and scientists are valued and trusted by society to develop solutions which will improve lives and well-being of citizens from across the globe.
5. Enhance the role of and engagement with GRC Regional Meetings; with a specific focus on engaging organisations that presently don't participate to better understand their needs and how the GRC can be relevant to them.
6. Increase the visibility of the GRC and its work to its participant organisations, other international organisations; as well as the international research and innovation community. Working in partnership with other organisations in the international research and innovation ecosystem to maximise the value and impact of the GRC's work.
7. Provide support for participant organisations considering how best to take forward GRC Statements of Principles; as well as continuing to be a resource for those institutions wishing to build a world-class research landscape.

#### **What will success look like**

1. GRC is considered a useful resource for its participants and institutions wishing to build and sustain a world-class research and innovation landscape. It is recognised as the main forum of Heads of Research Councils world-wide.
2. Participants report enhanced collaborative activity, both bilateral and multilateral, facilitated by discussions at the GRC. The GRC's role in facilitating international collaboration is recognised by the international research and innovation community.
3. GRC is considered an expert and leading voice on the promotion of equality, diversity, sustainability and inclusion in the international research and innovation eco-system. It is also embedded within its own structures, policies and practices.
4. Information and experience on developing innovative and successful approaches for connecting science to the society and building public trust is shared among GRC participants and the wider global research eco-system.
5. Strong attendance and engagement at Regional Meetings, with regular opportunities for inter-regional discussion and engagement.
6. GRC has a high profile both within its participation organisations and within the wider international research and innovation ecosystem. Where appropriate, the GRC works in partnership with other organisations and networks, thereby avoiding duplication and ensuring complementarity.
7. Participants report positively on how GRC Statements of Principle have informed and validated the development of policy and practice both within their own, as well as other, organisations.

In delivering this vision we will ensure that the GRC's own structures and procedures remain fit for purpose; are open, transparent and allow for participation and contributions from all participants.

## GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ROADMAP

## VERSION 0.2

Objective	Activity	Milestones
<b>1. Maintain GRC primary role as a forum for research councils to share data and best practice, as well as addressing issues of common concern and mutual strategic priority.</b>	a. Open call across GRC participant for topic suggestions for the 11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, to be considered by GRC Programme Committee	i. Call for proposals announced October 2021, with deadline of 4 February 2022.  ii. Programme Committee to discuss suggestions and may recommendations to Governing Board by May 2022.
	b. Consider including thematic substantive discussions on emerging areas at future meetings, with a view to identifying opportunities for international cooperation and collaboration.	i. To be discussed by GRC participants as part of the 2021 Regional Meetings.  ii. To be discussed by the next Programme Committee and included in recommendations to Governing Board by May 2022.
<b>2. Actively facilitate and promote bilateral and multilateral collaboration between participant organisations, in order to support the global science enterprise and the world-wide research community and address global challenges.</b>	a. GRC to support and work with a subgroup of participant organisations in taking forward a SDG funding pilot for Research and Innovation Implementation Clusters.	
	b. Improve information sharing and best practice among GRC participants of existing mechanisms to support international collaboration.	i. GRC to develop an updated and global version of the 2014 Science Europe <a href="#">publication</a> on mechanisms to support international collaboration for the 10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting?
	c. GRC to explore and discuss the challenges for funders in supporting multilateral research collaboration with a view to identifying possible solutions.	i. Possible side event at 10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to discuss obstacles and hinderances in multilateral funding for research and role of GRC.

	<p>d. GRC to continue to engage with the International Science Council Global Forum of Funders.</p>	
<p><b>3. Champion a more equitable, diverse, sustainable and inclusive future to harnesses the diversity of talent which can contribute to the research and innovation enterprise.</b></p>	<p>a. Expand the remit of the Gender Working Group to look at broader issues of Equality Diversity and Inclusion.</p>	<p>i. GWG to establish dedicated working groups to tackle priority issues for 2021: the sex and gender dimension in research, bullying and harassment, and gender equality [and EDI] data.</p> <p>ii. GWG to publish a report on bullying and harassment at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Report will offer practical guidance to research councils to identify, prevent, address bullying and harassment.</p> <p>iii. GWG to survey research councils to gather more information on resources or information research agencies have related to the gender and EDI dimensions in research, in order to identify and share best practice.</p> <p>iv. GWG developing qualitative assessments of the obstacles that funders may encounter in collecting and using relevant data to formulate and implement policies to advance equality, diversity and inclusion in research.</p>
	<p>b. GWG to take forward a work programme over 2022-2016 moving beyond gender to diversity and other equity-seeking groups.</p>	
<p><b>4. Share experience and best practice in engaging and communicating with society and the public; so that science and scientists are valued and trusted by society to develop solutions which will improve lives and well-being of citizens from across the globe.</b></p>		

<p><b>5. Enhance the role of and engagement with GRC Regional Meetings; with a specific focus on engaging organisations that presently don't participate to better understand their needs and how the GRC can be relevant to them.</b></p>	<p>a. Establish a small Task and Finish Group of ESG and previous Regional Meeting hosts to identify best practice between Regions and develop proposals to be consider further by the Board.</p>	<p>i. T&amp;F group to be established by X and report to Board by X</p> <p>ii. Recommendations discussed by International Steering Committee in May 2022 and inform the design of 2022 Regional meetings.</p>
<p><b>6. Increase the visibility of the GRC and its work to its participant organisations, other international organisations; as well as the international research and innovation community. Working in partnership with other organisations in the international research and innovation ecosystem to maximise the value and impact of the GRC's work.</b></p>	<p>a. Establish a Communications Task Force to develop GRC communications strategy, revamp GRC branding guidelines, communications pack and templates.</p>	<p>i. Revamped guidelines and templates agreed and launched during 2021.</p> <p>ii. New communications pack including a standard GRC slide deck and flyer launched during the 2021 Regional Meetings.</p> <p>ii. Revamp and refresh of GRC website, including transfer of host from DFG to FAPESP by end of 2021.</p>
<p>b. Strengthen contact with participant organisations through a dedicated GRC nominated contact in each participant organisation. Contacts supplied with standard information and regular updates on GRC activity. Participant organisations encourage to include standard information on GRC on their own web-page.</p>	<p>i. Request for GRC participant organisations to nominate a dedicated Point of Contact (PoC) issued as part of 2021 Regional Meetings.</p> <p>ii. Data base of PoC complied by Executive Secretariat and first communication issued by end of 2021.</p>	
<p>c. Develop and International Cooperation Strategy for GRC engagement with other international organisations.</p>	<p>i. Draft International Cooperation Strategy discussed by Governing Board by March 2022.</p>	
<p>d. Promote the GRC at non-GRC events to dissemination information and raise the profile of GRC with stakeholders</p>		

	e. Continue to build relations with OCED GSF, ISC, WHO and GYA – identifying opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaboration.	
<b>7. Provide support for participant organisations considering how best to take forward GRC Statements of Principles; as well as continuing to be a resource for those institutions wishing to build a world-class research landscape.</b>	a. SoPs from the 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting are translated and published on GRC website in at least 5 widely spoken languages.	i. SoPs published on GRC website by end of October 2021.
	b. Establishment of GRC Working Group on Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) to take forward the call to action endorsed at the 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting	i. First meeting of the Working Group to be held by end of September 2021. ToR agreed and first Co-Chairs elected.

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