

Statement of Approaches: Building Research and Education Capacity

Context

The building of worldwide research and education capacity is important to all actors in the global research system. Understanding the specific context and the diversity of individual research systems, and how these attributes affect international cooperation, is crucial to effective research and education capacity building across the globe.

Research capacity building, especially in low and middle income countries, is an active process that involves the development of national systems that can identify the need for research, commissioning and undertaking research (including research partnering), communicating the results of research, and ensuring that the research results have an impact at local and policy level.

It is imperative that research funding agencies worldwide actively work towards strengthening research and educational capacity, and in particular digital connectivity - within national, regional and global systems - by taking actions aimed at strengthening both human and institutional capacities.

Accordingly, the participants of the 4th Annual Meeting of the Global Research Council recognize that the following approaches should be shared within the global research community as key elements in building research and education capacity.

Approaches to Building Research and Education Capacity

- **Collaboration, partnerships and networking**

True and equal partnership with a variety of partners is a key aspect in capacity strengthening. GRC participants should seek to grow institutional and human capacities through the establishment of partnerships for mutual benefit and for harnessing existing successful networks. In this context, GRC participants should consider working with other agencies and institutions to integrate robust capacity building approaches within infrastructures, networks and centers of excellence to set the conditions for better access to and sharing of these assets.

- **Sharing of good practice in research management**

The sharing of good practice has a significant impact in institutional capacity building for GRC participants. GRC participants should seek effective ways for sharing experiences, including the development of platforms for sharing good practice across the full range of research management activities. Research integrity is an essential component of research management practices. A database of good practice may emerge as an outcome of the sharing of activities.

- **Funding across the entire research pipeline to ensure the sustainability of research and education capacity**

To ensure that a robust and diverse pipeline of researchers and educators is continually being developed, GRC participants should work together to develop and share good practice – at both the local and global levels – to encourage emerging researchers to pursue science and teaching across the spectrum of career paths.

Building upon the GRC *Statement of Principles and Actions for Shaping the Future: Supporting the Next Generation of Researchers (2014)*, GRC participants should ensure that a range of

sustainable funding instruments for education, training and career development are available to attract and retain researchers at different points in their careers. GRC participants should actively seek to develop partnerships with stakeholders across the education and research sectors.

Concrete actions towards capacity development

GRC participants may engage in a range of voluntary activities - nationally, regionally and globally - aimed at developing and strengthening research and education capacity. Examples of specific activities could include:

1. *Funding Agency Workshops*: Workshops organised by a group of research councils on specific research management issues will encourage the sharing of good practice, development of early career researchers, and support of emerging research funding organizations worldwide.
2. *Staff Exchange Programmes*: To assist in building capacity for research council program managers and operational staff, short-term professional visits and traineeships will facilitate exposure to different operational models and good practice.
3. *Institutional Pairing*: To build institutional capacity in research management on a sustained basis, the linking of established and emerging research funding organizations should be explored.
4. *Communicating Research*: To proactively advocate for the transformative power of research for capacity building, funding agencies may develop and share platforms that effectively communicate positive research outcomes to the public and policymakers.