

MEETING REPORT SCIENCE DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL SOUTH: LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

Prepared by Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria





Imprint

Title of the event: 3rd meeting on Science Diplomacy and Global South: Latin American and the Caribbean countries

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The meeting took place online.

Organized by the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance. The meeting hosted by Dr. Jean-Joinville Vacher, Co-Chair of the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance and Prof. Maria Bonnafous-Boucher, Co-head of the sub-theme Global South the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance

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This report has been prepared by Dr. Inese Gavarane, M.Ed., MBA, Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria

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Supporting the integration of science into decision-making processes across the Americas



INTRODUCTION

The European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance is organizing a series of the meetings to explore the role of science diplomacy, particularly focusing on its significance for the Global South. This report summarizes the third meeting in this series, which specifically concentrated on the opportunities and challenges within Latin American and the Caribbean countries.

The primary goal of this meeting was to encourage meaningful dialogue and collaboration in science diplomacy among scientists from Europe, Latin American and the Caribbean. The discussions emphasized the growing importance of science diplomacy in tackling global challenges, the need for additional resources to enhance scientific contributions to international cooperation and to engage in less asymmetrical scientific collaborations.

The meeting was divided into two main sessions, followed by closing remarks. The first session included presentations and discussions on scientific contributions and key issues related to science diplomacy in the Global South. Experts shared their insights and experiences, providing valuable perspectives on the development and impact of science diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The second session featured an in-depth discussion on science diplomacy among scientists and stakeholders representing Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Science Diplomacy Alliance members. These discussions highlighted the potential of science diplomacy to address future global changes, its significance in balancing international collaboration between the Global South and Global North, and the importance of strengthening ties between European as well as Latin American and Caribbean scientists.

The EU Science Diplomacy Alliance expresses its gratitude to all speakers and participants for their valuable contributions and active participation in the discussions.

This report summarizes the key points and discussions from each session, focusing on the essential insights provided by the participants. It aims to offer a clear overview of the current state and future directions of science diplomacy, with an emphasis on improving cooperation and understanding between the Global North and the Global South.



Opening remarks

The workshop commenced with welcome remarks delivered by **Dr. Jean-Joinville Vacher**, Emeritus Research Director of IRD, France, and Co-Chair of the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance. In his opening address, Dr. Vacher highlighted the significance of these transnational gatherings in fostering ongoing dialogue and the continuous exchange of knowledge and experiences. He highlighted how such collaborative efforts are crucial for advancing mutual understanding and cooperation in the field of science diplomacy and promote more equitable scientific practices and collaboration between Europe and Global South.

During his welcome remarks, a comprehensive overview of the current landscape and future prospects of science diplomacy was provided. He emphasized the role of international partnerships in addressing global challenges and the importance of integrating diverse perspectives to enrich the discourse. His insights set a constructive tone for the workshop, encouraging participants to engage actively and contribute meaningfully to the discussions ahead. He announced that two new meetings will take place in the coming months, one more focused on the Middle East and the role of scientific diplomacy in solidarity with our colleagues in danger and one more focused on Asia and the role of scientific diplomacy in the shared development of new technologies.

SESSION 1: PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY ISSUES AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

This session was moderated by **Maria Bonnafous-Boucher**, Professor Paris Ile de France, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, France, Dr. in International Strategy, Co-head of the sub-theme Global South the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance.

The presentation "Results on a survey on Science Diplomacy in countries of the Global South" presented by Professor Pierre Bruno Ruffini, University of Le Havre Normandie, France, Co-Chair of the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance, provided insight into the science diplomacy concept in the Global South.

Professor Ruffini and Dr. Derya Büyüktanir Karacan from George Washington University, USA, guest edited a special section with the title "<u>Science Diplomacy in</u> <u>the Global South</u>" of the journal *Science and Public Policy* two years ago. The primary objective of the special section was to shift the focus of science diplomacy towards the perspective of the Global South, as the discourse had centred around the Global North, and Europe in particular.

Professor Ruffini presented findings on the general framework of science diplomacy from a nation-state perspective, applicable to any country. The concept was built on two main pillars-state perspectives, applicable to any country (see Annex II):

• Science and Technology (S&T) objectives: aimed at advancing scientific knowledge and building capacity.



• Non-S&T objectives: focused on connections with foreign policy, economic perspectives, and security.

Additionally, Professor Ruffini elaborated on the proposed strategic drivers of national science diplomacy strategies, which include cooperation, attraction, access, and influence:

- **Cooperation**: emphasizes increasing joint scientific activities and addressing global challenges.
- **Attraction**: involves acquiring foreign S&T resources, scientific talent, infrastructure, and funding.
- Access: provides opportunities for utilizing foreign S&T resources, scientific networks, infrastructure, data, knowledge, funding, and engaging with the scientific diaspora.
- **Influence**: can act as a motivator for science diplomacy, akin to science soft power, promoting the national S&T system, nation branding, and setting the agenda for global discussions.

It was noted during the presentation that contemporary science diplomacy is largely an Anglo-Saxon concept. This raises the question of how the experiences and context of the Global North can be adapted to activities in the Global South, especially as Global South countries identify science diplomacy as one of their priorities, e.g., by developing roadmaps.

To look into details of the strategic drivers and interests of the Global South Professor Ruffini shared survey results indicating that the main national interests of the Global South in science diplomacy are to:

- Enhance national innovation capacity,
- Promote economic development,
- **Build** or improve national scientific capacity,
- Address global challenges and promote common human interests, and
- **Disseminate** the core principles of the Sustainable Development Goals.

These interests were supported by prioritizing the strategic driver of access to connect with the scientific diaspora and the driver of attraction to acquire foreign scientific resources. Additionally, influence as a strategic driver was prioritized for gaining international visibility and improving representation in international agendasetting processes.

The survey facilitated a discussion on the foundations of science diplomacy in both the Global South and the Global North. It was observed that in the Global North, S&T is highly developed and serves as a prerequisite for engaging in science diplomacy, with a primary strategic objective of influence – utilizing science diplomacy as a form of soft power. In contrast, in the Global South, science diplomacy aims to create access to S&T achievements to enhance national S&T capabilities.



The presentation "Developments and approaches in Science Diplomacy Latin America and the Caribbean" delivered by **Dr. Luisa F. Echeverria King**, Director of Diplomacy and International Scientific Cooperation from the University of Simon Bolivar, Colombia, aimed to present the main fundings of a recently published book with the title "Developments and Approaches in Science Diplomacy: Latin America and the Caribbean."¹ The focus was on taxonomy of the science diplomacy and the science diplomacy training in Latin America and the Caribbean (see Annex III).

Dr. Echeverría-King highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, noting that it is a well-established practice in the region. Several significant networks in Latin America and the Caribbean contributed to the development of the book's concepts. These networks include:

- The Diplocientífica's Science Diplomacy Observatory,
- The Brazilian School of Innovation Diplomacy,
- Science Diaspora Networks,
- The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD),
- The Argentine Network of Professionals on Foreign Policy (Redappe),
- The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), and
- The Colombian Intersectoral Roundtable on Science Diplomacy.

Dr. Echeverría-King highlighted that water and environmental science diplomacy are of great importance in the region. Key questions essential for the authors of the book were:

- How can traditional knowledge be respected?
- How can dialogues among science, traditional knowledge, and international relations be established?

Dr. Echeverría-King emphasized the critical role of building bridges between various stakeholders to access expertise, high-level laboratories, and resources essential for the national S&T system.

Additionally, Dr. Echeverría-King outlined approaches to the taxonomy of science diplomacy and efforts to identify a specific taxonomy for Latin America and the Caribbean. Generally, countries in the region are moving towards strengthening regional networks, forming alliances to address common challenges, share knowledge and resources, and foster scientific cooperation. This includes the establishment of regional platforms and forums for scientific and technological collaboration.

The main conclusion was that science diplomacy in the region is built on four main pillars:

¹ Echeverría-King, L. F., Piñeros-Ayala, R. E., Pantović, B., Flores-Zamora, A. F., & Figueroa, P. (2024). Developments and Approaches in Science Diplomacy: Latin America and the Caribbean. IGI Global Scientific Publishing. 392 p.



- **Foreign Policy**: addressing capacity building, improving economic competitiveness, providing recommendations for decision-making, achieving commitments derived from the 2030 Agenda, and managing geopolitical resources.
- **Governance**: contributing to the creation of collaborative spaces for intergovernmental organizations.
- **Science**: facilitating the generation and strengthening of autonomous scientific capacities.
- **Soft Skills**: enhancing soft skills through improved intercultural dialogue, negotiation among diverse actors, and scientific communication and dissemination skills.

Dr. Echeverría-King emphasised methods used in the book to estimate regional efforts in conducting science diplomacy training. The importance of training professionals who can mediate between science and policy across sectors and borders was noted. Moreover, the discussion initiated by the book authors addressed two main questions:

- How to introduce the science diplomacy subject in the curriculum and agendas of Latin American universities?
- How to make science diplomacy a public policy that endures despite the political climate on both national and regional levels?

From the perspective of the book authors, who offer postgraduate courses on science diplomacy, it is essential to:

- Focus on history of science, especially since the middle of the 20th century.
- Address theories of diplomacy and international relations.
- Introduce foreign policy.
- **Outline actors** of the science, technology and innovation ecosystem, and the diplomatic ecosystem.

The presentation "Science Diplomacy in an Era of Geopolitical fragmentation: Where is the Global South?" given by **Dr. Nevia Vera**, a post-doctoral researcher at Argentina's National Council of Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET), University of the Centre of the Province of Buenos Aires (UNICEN), Argentina, into the current situation in and the challenges that Latin America, and particularly Argentina, currently face (see Annex IV).

Dr. Vera addressed the question of how the strategic driver of "Influence" in science diplomacy could be better adapted and applied in the Global South to develop more efficient science and technology (S&T) systems and address geopolitical challenges. She posed the question of how the Global South could integrate this strategic driver as effectively as the Global North and identified potential main supporters for this endeavour.



Additionally, Dr. Vera provided examples illustrating how geopolitical dynamics influence diplomacy in science initiatives. These examples are detailed in the book² chapter titled "Geopolitics and Science and Technology Cooperation in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia: An Analysis of Diplomacy for Science Dynamics" by Julián Preto, Nevia Vera, and Cristian Guglielminotti. Dr. Vera briefly introduced international space collaborations, specifically between the EU and Argentina, as well as between China and Argentina and provided an example of diplomatic discussions between the US and Argentina regarding China-Argentina space engagement.

A comparative study of the selected case studies in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia revealed that responsible agencies in these countries deliver information in different ways, with variations in informational flows, obstacles to accessing information, and in some cases a lack of transparency.

Dr. Vera outlined that, in geopolitical terms, the region often appears peripheral in the science diplomacy strategies of the US, the EU, and China. Typically, topics of international research and innovation grant calls are related to the export profiles of raw materials and fundamental research. These grant calls allow local scientists to access scientific infrastructures, resources, or materials that are not available in their countries. Generally, Latin American countries are making efforts to position themselves as attractive and legitimate destinations for studies and research. It was noted that China has expanded its ties with developing countries.

Furthermore, an increasing number of countries worldwide are showing interest in studying Latin America and the Caribbean, indicating a particular interest in international collaboration and science diplomacy initiatives.

Dr. Vera presented her study on the importance of infrastructure initiatives and science and technology diplomacy, mentioning the support provided within the European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean Global Gateway Investment Agenda (GGIA). The GGIA highlights potential investment projects to address the region's infrastructure needs, focusing on four main areas:

- A fair green transition
- An inclusive digital transformation
- Human development
- Health resilience and vaccines

Dr. Vera also addressed the question of how the Global South can be supported in its S&T development to become a more innovative region. She and her colleagues led a research project entitled "Science, technology and international reconfiguration of power. The global infrastructure, investment and techno diplomacy megaprojects of the United States and the European Union in Latin America and Argentina in the 21st century". It was observed that many infrastructure projects support mining and natural resource providers but do not always contribute to the innovative potential of the Global South. Three main trends were identified in relation to infrastructure projects, which are strongly linked with science and technology diplomacy dynamics:

 ² Echeverría-King, L. F., Piñeros-Ayala, R. E., Pantović, B., Flores-Zamora, A. F., & Figueroa,
 P. (2024). Developments and Approaches in Science Diplomacy: Latin America and the
 Caribbean. IGI Global Scientific Publishing



- Enhanced focus on global challenges such as climate change
- **Consolidation** of the new techno-economic paradigm
- **Centrality** of new infrastructural initiatives (reinforcing geopolitical fragmentation)

Dr. Vera shared observations on the current S&T situation in Argentina, where investments in S&T have decreased by 47.6% compared to 2023, with current investments at 0.153% of GDP. She also mentioned that the government decided to abolish the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and replace it with a Secretariat of Innovation, Science and Technology. Also, the government has not extended the budget of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), which implies that it will only have resources to function until the middle of this year.

Researchers across the country are collaborating to address this issue, although the interests of scientists and the government are becoming increasingly divergent.

Key discussion points

Professor Paul Arthur Berkman, Founding Director, Science Diplomacy Centre, Inc. nonprofit; Faculty Associate, Program on Negotiation (PON) at Harvard Law School; International Science Council (ISC) Fellow initiated the discussion by emphasizing the following points:

- The community of science diplomats is tasked with thinking ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, avoiding the constraints of self-centred dynamics.
- In the context of global dynamics, the Global North often focuses on national interests, whereas the Global South possesses the capacity, networks, passion, and compassion to consider planetary-scale issues and shape global discussions.
- Lessons from history can offer valuable insights for future actions, particularly recognizing that the Global South *per se* holds significant power and represents an important trajectory for the future of our civilization.

"Science diplomacy is accelerating on a global scale because it has utility. It allows us as individuals to dialogue with great powers – Presidents, Prime Ministers, Parliaments [...]."

P.A. Berkman

Dr. Anna-Lena Rüland, Research Fellow at the Global Business School for Health at University College London initiated a discussion on critical topics by raising questions about the taxonomy of science diplomacy in the context of geopolitical challenges. The discussion encompassed several key themes:

• **Research security issues from a national perspective**: this involves finding a balance between ensuring research security and promoting open science.



- **Understanding the scientific and economic spheres**: it is crucial to comprehend the interplay between the scientific sphere and the economic sphere, particularly through the lens of innovations and emerging technologies.
- In describing the frameworks of science diplomacy in both the Global South and Global North, it is important to **consider both vocabulary and content**:
 - Vocabulary: Science diplomacy is a universal concept that does not belong to any single entity. However, some organizations may overuse the term "science diplomacy." The concept itself is versatile and can be applied to various situations.
 - Content: The content aspect presents more challenges, as all strategic drivers in science diplomacy are inherently competitive and unilateral. Countries often leverage strategies for their national interests, which can result in imbalances in international collaborations. More advanced countries in science and technology may sometimes derive greater benefits.

How can relationships between countries be organized most effectively to ensure equitable and mutually beneficial collaborations?

P.B. Ruffini

José Julián Prieto from The College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State compared both a <u>"Science Diplomacy in an Era of Disruption"</u> report by the AAAS³ and <u>"A</u> <u>European framework for science diplomacy"</u> by the European Commission.⁴ His observations highlighted a trend toward the increasing politicization of science diplomacy. He addressed important questions regarding the role and engagement of the diaspora within international research institutions, including the risks of politization.

SESSION 2: DEBATE EUROPE – LATIN AMERICA ABOUT SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

The session, chaired by **Juan Ignacio Iquino Lafuente**, diplomat, the Vice-Presidency of Internationalization and Cooperation at CSIC, Spain, provided a platform for experts and scientists to share their experiences in the field of science

³ Science diplomacy in an era of disruption (2025). Report by the Royal Society & American Association for the Advancement of Science.

⁴ European Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Gjedssø Bertelsen, R., Bochereau, L., Chelioti, E., Dávid, Á. et al. (2025). A European framework for science diplomacy – Recommendations of the EU Science Diplomacy Working Groups, Gjedssø Bertelsen, R.(editor), Bochereau, L.(editor), Chelioti, E.(editor), Dávid, Á.(editor), Gailiūtė-Janušonė, D.(editor), Hartl, M.(editor), Liberatore, A.(editor), Mauduit, J.-C.(editor), Müller, J. M.(editor) and Van Langenhove, L.(editor), Publications Office of the European Union.



diplomacy within Latin America and the Caribbean countries. The discussions highlighted the significance of science diplomacy at the national level and highlighted ongoing initiatives and challenges in the region.

Professor Alma Cristal Hernandez Mondragon, Department of Research and Multidisciplinary Studies at Cinvestav, Centre for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute, Mexico, presented insights concerning the progress in science policy within Mexico. Significant advancements have been made in capacity building for science advice, primarily driven by initiatives from academia and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Science diplomacy modules have been integrated by Mexico City, which has initiated the implementation of these activities. However, at the national level, there is currently no science diplomacy strategy.

Additionally, there are significant changes in the governance of S&T. The National Science Council is set to be elevated to a "secretariat," a move that has received widespread approval from the research community. Furthermore, the establishment of the Ministry of Science, Humanities, Technology, and Innovation (<u>SECIHTI</u>) signifies a promising advancement in Mexico's commitment to advance a coherent science policy strategy. SECIHTI aims to unify and strengthen the sectors of science, technology, innovation, and humanities, with the ambition of positioning Mexico as a global leader in these areas.

It is important to note that most in the Mexican academic community in do not yet recognize science diplomacy as a scientific field. Nevertheless, the role of NGOs remains crucial in promoting institutional changes, such as revising research assessment criteria and providing recognition to the fields of science diplomacy and science advice.

Dr. Gabriela Gomes Coelho Ferreira, a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Advanced Studies, the University of São Paulo, Brazil and the University of Manchester, UK, presented insights into Brazil's innovative approach to science diplomacy, which is closely aligned with the sustainable development of the country. This approach primarily focuses on the scope of science and innovation diplomacy.

Since 2019, the University of São Paulo, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, continues the operation of the innovation and science diplomacy school. This initiative utilizes science diplomacy as a tool to address local challenges.

The primary national science diplomacy interest in Brazil is to create a sustainable cycle of engagement that connects civil society, businesses, academic institutions, and decision-makers. This collaborative effort aims to positively impact regional development through the strategic application of science diplomacy. By focusing on societal issues, science diplomacy is employed to develop effective solutions and formulate policies that are responsive to the needs of society.

Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, Chair of the Science Diplomacy Advisory Board at the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), represented Marcella Ohira, the Deputy Executive Director and Director for Capacity Building and Science Diplomacy Centre at IAI, who could not attend the session. The IAI, established in 1992, is committed to the principles of scientific excellence and integrity, international cooperation, science outreach, and capacity building. The institute aims to promote the full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global



change, with the vision of achieving a sustainable future for the Americas (see Annex V).

In recent years, the IAI has focused on establishing and enhancing science diplomacy through several key initiatives:

- **Capacity Building:** enhancing the capacities of professionals and institutions to understand and implement science diplomacy effectively.
- **Knowledge Hub:** developing a platform where countries can access information, regional case studies, policy papers, and other relevant resources.
- **Emerging Issues:** convening relevant communities to promote dialogue and collaboration between scientists and decision-makers in the Americas on emerging global change issues.
- **STeP Fellowship (Science Advisement):** training future leaders from across the Americas to engage in the science-policy interface through hands-on learning, professional development, and mentorship.

The IAI serves as a robust network of partnering countries. It can bridge the gap between the Global South and the Global North by facilitating the dialogue to address the global challenges more effectively. While there are certain similarities between the concepts of science diplomacy in the Global North and Global South, each region operates within different spheres of influence. Strengthening collaboration between both regions can create benefits.

Dr. Echeverría-King discussed the asymmetries that are present in international scientific cooperation, highlighting these as a complex issue. Asymmetries are evident in various aspects, including the setting of research agendas, funding mechanisms, project leadership, and knowledge creation more broadly. In many cases, Latin America and the Caribbean find themselves in supportive roles – such as providing data and organizing logistics – while strategic decision-making and leadership remain concentrated in Global North countries. This dynamic reflects a colonial structure, and science diplomacy could offer an alternative pathway to address these differences.

In November 2024, Colombia launched a national policy on the <u>Internationalization</u> <u>of Higher Education</u>, which includes a science diplomacy component. This policy aims to foster more equitable international partnerships and promote Colombia's role in the co-creation of scientific knowledge.

Dr. Echeverría-King emphasized that building balanced cooperation is not solely an ethical issue but also a matter of inclusion and scientific excellence. Addressing global challenges effectively requires the full inclusion and recognition of global knowledge, rather than excluding or underestimating any part of it. Science diplomacy can play a crucial role in re-establishing the rules for international collaboration between the Global South and the Global North, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable approach.

Dr. Vera, expanded on her observations presented during the first session. She noted that limited resources for S&T in the country make it increasingly challenging to publish articles in highly ranked journals (e.g., Q1 scientific journals) as a publication fee is sometimes higher than the monthly salary of a researcher.



Dr. Vera acknowledged that scientists in her region often represent a cost-effective labour force. Currently, science diplomacy efforts primarily reside within universities, science agencies, and individuals interested in the field. Given the current developments in the S&T system in the country, developing more coherent strategies can be particularly challenging. She suggested that science diplomacy could thrive as a bottom-up initiative by the science diplomacy community and does not necessarily need to be centralized.

Furthermore, Dr. Vera mentioned the book presented by Dr. Echeverría-King stresses the crucial role that the European Union plays in supporting S&T initiatives in Argentina and in the region.

Key discussion points

Professor Paul Arthur Berkman outlined the historical context of science diplomacy, highlighting two distinct approaches within the field:

- Science diplomacy for government and national interests: utilizing science diplomacy to advance the objectives and priorities of governments and national interests.
- **Community-driven science diplomacy**: focusing on the interaction and collaboration within the community of science diplomats to redefine and enhance the rules of international cooperation.

The community of science diplomats holds a significant responsibility and capacity to address global challenges and provide continuity that governments alone may not be able to offer. This discussion is crucial as it centres on how global cooperation can have a positive impact at the planetary level.

On a planetary scale, the scientific ecosystem is inclusive (natural sciences, social sciences and Indigenous knowledge), contributing insights into patterns, trends and processes that are fundamental to decision-making, optimally to make informed decisions that operate short-to-long term.

P.A. Berkman

Mr Juan Ignacio Iquino Lafuente concluded the discussion by reflecting on the various actors involved in science diplomacy, each with their unique interests. He emphasized the importance of finding common ground where these interests can align, as all actors share a responsibility toward society. He mentioned that, sometimes, the objective of science diplomacy is mainly to ensure representation and participation in agenda-setting, as well as co-creating common rules.

The scientific ecosystem is crucial for science diplomacy and possesses its own interests that need to be respected. Effectively addressing asymmetries in science diplomacy can be achieved through innovation development, which often also serves national interests. From a broader perspective, scientists are keen to grow professionally and to expand their professional networks. In such cases, science diplomacy is a tool for the continuing S&T development.



KEY TAKE AWAYS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

During the meeting, the participants expressed their willingness to continue of these essential dialogues, highlighting the importance of sustained collaboration in science diplomacy. For participants, it is essential to support initiatives that foster equitable and inclusive scientific partnerships across regions. Participants of the meeting appreciated the opportunity to share experiences and their observations, which enrich the understanding and approach to science diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The key take aways might be summarised as follows:

- **Dialogue, collaboration, and inclusivity**: encourage ongoing dialogue and collaboration among scientists from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasizing the importance of equitable partnerships and the inclusion of diverse perspectives to tackle global challenges effectively.
- **Resource allocation and capacity building**: address the need for additional resources to enhance scientific contributions, particularly in the Global South, focusing on strengthening scientific capacities and innovation to foster S&T development.
- **Policy, governance, and ethical practices**: integrate science diplomacy into national policies and governance structures, advocating for ethical considerations and inclusive practices to ensure continuity, impact, and representation of all regions and stakeholders, including civil society.
- **Innovation and infrastructure development**: facilitate innovation and infrastructure development as key drivers to address asymmetries in science diplomacy and advance national interests.
- **Strategic international partnerships**: foster strategic partnerships and alliances that respect and integrate the unique contributions and priorities of both the Global North and Global South.

Dr. Vacher concluded the meeting by expressing gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions and active engagement. He emphasized the significance of the insights shared and congratulated everyone on their reflections and the knowledge exchanged regarding science diplomacy. He appreciated the willingness of by participants to continue these exchanges, aiming to further advance understanding and cooperation in the field of science diplomacy.



ANNEX I: AGENDA

28 May 2025

Presentations and discussion on Science Diplomacy issues and the Global South

Moderator: **Maria Bonnafous-Boucher**, Professor Paris Ile de France, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, France, Dr. in International Strategy, Co-head of the sub-theme Global South the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance

Presentations by:

Professor Pierre Bruno Ruffini, University of Le Havre Normandie, France

- Results on a survey on Science Diplomacy in countries of the Global South

Dr. Luisa F. Echeverría-King, University of Simon Bolivar, Colombia

- Developments and approaches in Science Diplomacy Latin America and the Caribbean

- A taxonomy of Science Diplomacy from Latin American and Caribbean Perspectives

Dr. Nevia Vera, Argentina's National Council of Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET), University of the Centre of the Province of Buenos Aires (UNICEN), Argentina.

- Science Diplomacy in an Era of Geopolitical fragmentation: Where is the Global South?

Debate Europe - Latin America about Science Diplomacy

Moderator: **Juan Ignacio Iquino Lafuente**, Vice-Presidency of Internationalization and Cooperation - CSIC, Spain

Introduction by:

Dr. Gabriela Gomes Coelho Ferreira, University of São Paolo, Brazil and University of Manchester, UK

Professor Alma Cristal Hernandez Mondragon, Centre for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute, México

Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, Science Diplomacy Advisory Board, Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

Dr. Luisa F. Echeverría-King, University of Simon Bolivar, Colombia

Dr. Nevia Vera, Argentina's National Council of Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET), University of the Centre of the Province of Buenos Aires (UNICEN), Argentina



ANNEX II: SLIDES

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

DEVELOPMENTS AND APPROACHES IN SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN AN ERA OF GEOPOLITICAL FRAGMENTATION: WHERE IS THE GLOBAL SOUTH?

SUPPORTING THE INTEGRATION OF SCIENCE INTO DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES ACROSS THE AMERICAS



Science Diplomacy in the Global South

Lessons from SPP's special section and Results from a survey



Pierre-Bruno Ruffini University of Le Havre Normandy

28 May 2025

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Call for Papers

Special Section of *Science and Public Policy* on "Science Diplomacy in the Global South"

Guest editors:

Prof. Pierre-Bruno Ruffini (University of Le Havre-Normandie) Dr Derya Büyüktanir Karacan (The George Washington University)

This Special Section of *Science and Public Policy* (SPP) aims to bring together scholars addressing the topic of "science diplomacy in the Global South". Historically, the concept of science diplomacy emerged in the United

SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY – Volume 50, Issue 4 – Special section, August 2023

Science diplomacy in the Global South—an introduction

Derya Büyüktanir Karacan and Pierre-Bruno Ruffini

The globalization of science diplomacy in the early 1970s: a historical exploration

- Sam Robinson and others
- **Coloniality in science diplomacy—evidence from the Atlantic Ocean**
 - Andrei Polejack

Science diplomacy from a nation-state's perspective: a general framing and its application to Global South countries

Pierre-Bruno Ruffini and Olga Krasnyak

Science diplomacy from the Global South: the case of intergovernmental science organizations

Anna-Lena Rüland and others

Scientific collaborations between Latin America and Europe: an approach from science diplomacy towards

international engagement

Luisa F Echeverría-King and others

China's use of formal science and technology agreements as a tool of diplomacy

Caroline S Wagner and Denis F Simon

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JOURNAL ARTICLE

Science diplomacy from a nation-state's perspective: a general framing and its application to Global South

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Pierre-Bruno Ruffini , Olga Krasnyak 🐱

Science and Public Policy, Volume 50, Issue 4, August 2023, Pages 771–781, https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scad023 Published: 09 June 2023 Article history ▼

Abstract

Based on International Relations (IRs) grounding theories, this article outlines a realist-constructivist perspective in science diplomacy when assessing a nationstate's foreign policy decision-making and behaviour. The proposed theoretical framing helps us evaluate existing practices of science diplomacy within the

A General Framing of Science Diplomacy from a Nation-State's Perspective

Objectives, Strategic Drivers and Tools

OBJECTIVES

- S&T objectives Advancing scientific knowledge S&T capacity building
- Non- S&T objectives

Foreign policy (diplomatic) objectives Economic objectives (competitiveness, development) Security Flink-Schreiterer 2010

OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALES

- Access
- Promotion
- Influence

Ruffini-Krasnyak 2023

STRATEGIC DRIVERS

- Cooperation
- Attraction and Access
- Influence

STRATEGIC DRIVERS

Cooperation

Increase joint scientific production Address global challenges

Attraction of foreign S&T resources
 Scientific talents
 Infrastructures
 Funding...

Access to S&T resources
 Scientific networks and infrastructures
 Data, knowledge
 Funding
 Reaching out to scientific diaspora

Influence

Science as soft power Promotion of the national STI system, nation branding Agenda setting – Lobbying... **TOOLS** (Van Langenhove, 2017)

- Strategic tools
- Operational tools
- Support tools

SD and the challenge of development

SD in its contemporary meaning is an Anglo-Saxon invention

Can the concept be applied to the countries of the Global South?

Results of the survey

- 5 countries: Brazil, Colombia, India, Pakistan, South Africa
- 12 high-profile government officials and experts of SD
- Questionnaires and semi-structured interviews (October 2021-March 2022)
- Questions and pre-selected answers: scores from 0 (total rejection) to 4 (total acceptance)

QUESTIONNAIRE (excerpt)

• What is the importance given to the following SD objectives ?

Improve your country's participation in international decision-making Not a priority – Rather not a priority – Somewhat a priority – Priority – High priority

Promote economic development Not a priority – Rather not a priority – Somewhat a priority – Priority – High priority

Attract foreign scientific resources (human, financial) to the country Not a priority – Rather not a priority – Somewhat a priority – Priority – High priority

Mitigate international political tensions through S&T cooperation Not a priority – Rather not a priority – Somewhat a priority – Priority – High priority

Stop/reverse the brain drain of scientists Not a priority – Rather not a priority – Somewhat a priority – Priority – High priority

National interests and common interests	
Improve the national innovation capacity	4
Promote economic development	3.9
Build or improve the national scientific capacity	3.9
Address global challenges and promote the common interests of humanity	3.4
Disseminate the core principles of the Sustainable Development Goals	3.3

•	Attra	CTION	ariver	

Attract foreign scientific resources	3.6
Attract foreign investment in R&D infrastructure	3.3
• Access driver	
Connect with the scientific diaspora	3.7
Stop/reverse the brain drain of scientists	3.3
Enhance the participation of the country's researchers in international networks	3.3

Influence driver

Gain visibility on the international scene	3.4
Improve the country's representation in in in international agenda settings	3.3
Country's ability to influence discussions and governance of major global issues	2.7
Mitigate international political tensions through S&T cooperation	2.4

What do we learn from Global South countries about science diplomacy?

- S&T capacity building and economic development on top of priorities of national SD strategies
- Advanced S&T level is not a prerequisite for engaging in SD
- SD can be a lever of development importance of attraction/access drivers
- Influence driver to be strengthened

MERCI DE VOTRE ATTENTION!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

DEVELOPMENTS AND APPROACHES IN SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Echeverría-King, L. F., Pineros-Ayala, R. E., Figueroa, P., & Flores-Zamora, A. F. (Eds.). (2024). Developments and Approaches in Science Diplomacy: Latin America and the Caribbean: Latin America and the Caribbean. IGI Global.

Approaches in



The idea for the book came mainly from colleagues from Diplocientifica's Science Diplomacy Observatory but was very well received by colleagues from broader networks, such as the Brazilian School of Innovation Diplomacy, organized science diaspora networks, the OWSD, Redappe, the IAI, the Colombian Intersectoral Roundtable on Science Diplomacy, among others.

WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR THE BOOK COME FROM?

REDAPPS

REDADO



A TAXONOMY OF SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FROM LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PERSPECTIVE

King, L. F. E., Piñeros-Ayala, R. E., Pantovic, B., Flores-Zamora, A. F., & Figueroa, P. (2024). A Taxonomy of Science Diplomacy From a Latin American and Caribbean Perspective. In Developments and Approaches in Science Diplomacy: Latin America and the Caribbean (pp. 26-54). IGI Global.

Taxonomy of Science Diplomacy

The taxonomy of science diplomacy is defined as a systematic classification of the various approaches, modalities and practices of science diplomacy in the Latin American and Caribbean region. This taxonomy aims to provide a framework for understanding how science and technology are integrated into diplomacy and international relations, and how these approaches can be applied to solve regional and global problems

Colaboración Technology Science knowledge foreign policy scientific dissemination sustainable development scientific evidence Coordination with stakeholders international mobility Science multiregional projects power Colaboration institutionality capacity building innovation social responsibility Cooperation Development influence Association competitiveness scientific culture dialogue Networking scientific collaboration knowledge exchanges decision making building bridges science-policy interface policy recommendations public policy advice network Governance Multilateralism

King, L. F. E., Piñeros-Ayala, R. E., Pantović, B., Flores-Zamora, A. F., & Figueroa, P. (2024). A Taxonomy of Science Diplomacy From a Latin American and Caribbean Perspective. In Developments and Approaches in Science Diplomacy: Latin America and the Caribbean (pp. 26-54). IGI Global.



Approaches to the Taxonomy of Science Diplomacy

Science diplomacy is a constantly evolving field. There are several ways of classifying practices and actions within science diplomacy. Some of the main taxonomies of SD may include:

According to the number of stakeholders.

According to the purpose.

According to the level of government involvement.

According to the thematic area





Methodology overview

• A qualitative approach was adopted, leveraging semi-structured interviews as the primary method of data collection

• Data analysis followed a qualitative content analysis framework • A total of ten individuals were selected as participants for this study, representing a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise within the realm of science diplomacy, when they have complete different background, like: Researcher at a public university, Officer at a multilateral organization, Public officer working in international cooperation and some others.

• Also the participants were from Brazil, Panama, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Colombia



SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Science diplomacy in the region is moving towards strengthening regional networks and collaborations. Countries are forming alliances to address common challenges, share knowledge and resources, and foster scientific cooperation within the region. This includes the creation of regional platforms and forums for scientific and technological cooperation.

King, L. F. E., Piñeros-Ayala, R. E., Pantović, B., Flores-Zamora, A. F., & Figueroa, P. (2024). A Taxonomy of Science Diplomacy From a Latin American and Caribbean Perspective. In Developments and Approaches in Science Diplomacy: Latin America and the Caribbean (pp. 26-54). IGI Global.



Conclusions

From a practical perspective, four main lines of action were identified: first, foreign policy issues related to capacity building, improving economic competitiveness, recommendations for decision making, achieving the commitments derived from the 2030 agenda and, finally, as a geopolitical resource. Second, it was highlighted that SD has a capacity to strengthen STI ecosystems based on the participation and contribution of actors of diverse nature and purpose and contributes to the generation of collaborative spaces for intergovernmental organizations, States and even sub-regional bodies such as cities.

Third, SD contributes to the generation and strengthening of its own autonomous scientific capacities, especially for developing countries such as those in LAC region. For decision-makers, scientists and other actors, it should facilitate better interaction between scientists and other actors, to identify issues, develop instruments and public policies that contribute to the solution of internal problems and the generation of scientific knowledge that enhances growth and sustainable development. Fourth, SD is also implemented to enhance soft skills by improving intercultural dialogue, negotiation among diverse actors, and scientific communication and dissemination skills.

TEACHING SCIENCE DIPLOMACY AT UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS FOR LATIN AMERICA

King, L. F. E., Piñeros-Ayala, R., De Luque-Montaño, O., Flores-Zamora, A. F., Pantovic, B., & Figueroa, P. (2023). Teaching science diplomacy at university programs for Latin America. In Global Science's Cooperation Opportunities, Challenges, and Good Practices (pp. 165-189). IGI Global.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective was to analyze how science diplomacy is being incorporated—or could be incorporated—into postgraduate programs across Latin America. We focused on three key aspects:

- The relevance of including science diplomacy in university curricula. 1.
- 2. The teaching methodologies most appropriate for the region.
- 3. The priority topics and regional challenges that such courses should address.

To achieve this, we conducted qualitative research based on three focus groups with nine experts from six countries with recognized experience in the field.





METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

Research Design: Qualitative approach

• Aimed at understanding teaching practices and challenges in science diplomacy education at the postgraduate level in Latin America.

Data Collection: Focus Groups

- 3 focus groups conducted via Google Meet
- 9 participants: experts from 6 Latin American countries
- Selected through purposive sampling (relevant experience in SD education)

Focus Group Guide

- Structured around 3 core themes:
 - a. Relevance of SD in postgraduate programs
 - b. Teaching methodologies
 - c. Priority regional issues and content

Data Analysis: Qualitative Content Analysis

- insights
- Identified key patterns, perspectives, and teaching strategies

Participants

- University professors, policy professionals, SD network leaders
- Countries: Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Panama

• Used to synthesize and interpret participant



Focus on the Region



We draw on the concept of "situated thinking" to advocate for curricula that:

- Are context-specific,
- Reflect local and regional knowledge systems,
- Align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional agendas of revelance.
- And bridge the disconnect between academia, government, and civil society.

What topics should be central to Latin American science diplomacy education?

- The climate crisis and energy transition,
- Management of biodiversity and natural resources,
- Health diplomacy and pandemic response,
- Regional integration and South-South cooperation.

In Latinamerica we need to train professionals who can mediate between science and policy, across sectors and borders.

and regional agendas of revelance. nent, and civil society.

Teaching Methodologies



Teaching Science Diplomacy at University Programs for Latin America

Figure 2. Methodologies to use for teaching SD at the postgraduate level Source: Elaboration by authors.





Content for the posgraduate courses

Figure 3. Content to be included in a postgraduate science diplomacy courses in the Latin American context Source: Elaboration by authors.



Americas, Asia and Africa)

+

Thank you! Luisa F. Echeverría-King PhD.

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Science Diplomacy in an Era of Geopolitical Fragmentation: where is the Global South?

Dr. Nevia Vera (CEIPIL - UNICEN – CONICET) <u>neviavera@fch.unicen.edu.ar</u>



Presentation of partial research results

- 1. Book chapter 'Geopolitics and Science and Technology Cooperation in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia: An Analysis of Diplomacy for Science Dynamics'
- 2. Partial results from Infrastructure and technodiplomacy research project.
- 3. Science and Diplomacy situation in Argentina

Chapter 6 Geopolitics and Science and Technology Cooperation in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia: An Analysis of Diplomacy for Science Dynamics

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- **Co-authored chapter** with Dr. Julián Prieto (Penn State University) and Mg. Cristian Guglielminotti (UNICEN)
- US China dispute has an impact on cooperation possibilities on Global South countries
- How are geopolitic dynamics affecting Diplomacy for Science initiatives?
- Selected cases for study: Argentina, Chile and Colombia aand their S&T cooperation links w/ US, China and EU (2018-2023)

Argentina

Chile

Colombia



Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación **Argentina**



CONICET









A few obstacles and some findings:

- Obstacles:
 - Difference in how each institution presents their information
 - Different criteria in organizations
 - Information that had to be left out due to wordcount limit

- Main findings:
 - China has expanded its ties with developing countries
 - In geopolitical terms, the region appears as a subordinate to SD strategies from the US, the EU, and China
 - Topics of calls were usually associated with the raw materials exporting profiles and basic science
 - However, many of these calls have allowed local scientists to access scientific infrastructures, resources or materials not available in their territories
 - These South American countries are undertaking some efforts to show themselves as interesting and legitimate destinies to pursue studies and do research

Infrastructure initiatives and Technodiplomacy: the case of Global Gateway and Latin America

- Research project: 'Science, technology and international reconfiguration of power. The global infrastructure, investment and technodiplomacy megaprojects of the United States and the European Union in Latin America and Argentina in the 21st century'.
- Continued in cooperation with colleagues from Europe and Latin America

- Three trend strongly related with Science and Technology Dinamics (hence, with SD):
 - deepening of global challenges such as climate change
 - consolidation of a new techno-economic paradigm
 - centrality of new infrastructural initiatives (fragmentation)



PERÚ

🖲 Seguridad hídrica en zonas urbanas 🛄 📕 Conservación y protección del patrimonio natural Sistemas de interconexión eléctrica Sistemas de BRT
 Top Ligero Urbano
 Economía circular
 Care
 Economía circular
 Economía circular
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> BOLIVIA 🔹 🛛 Energías renovables 🌕 🐖 📲 💷 📲 🕂

CHILE

🔹 🛛 Producción H2 🌍 🎫 Producción Combustible neutro en Carbono Combustible neutro en Carbono

85% de conectividad digital para 2026 a mainte de la conectividad

> Mejora del sistema de gestión de agua potable Inversión en Blue Green Bank energías renovables

TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO

- Transición digital
- • Energías renovables
- Agua y saneamiento

Reducción de emisiones de methano y CO2

BRASIL

🌢 Energías renovables 🧰 💶 💴

- Modernización de sistemas de agua y saneamiento
- Iniciativa Bosques Tropicales
 Apoyo a pymes en tecnologías verdes

URUGUAY

Agua y saneamiento C ===

- 🧕 Impulso a la movilidad urbana eléctrica 🔝 🎫
- 🔹 😐 Producción de H2 👘 🛲

PARAGUAY

- Agua y saneamiento in internetionality Lucha contra la deforestación
- 🗕 Renovación de la red de transmisión eléctrica 🌑

ARGENTINA

- Transmisión eléctrica
- Programa de desarrollo rural
- 🔹 🖲 Energía en transición Hidrógeno 📰 💶 📕
- Materias primas críticas

70 iniciativas potenciales conjuntas UE-CAF

- Digital Clima y energía Transporte sostenible Salud Educación e investigación

* Interés de CAF en participar

S&T situation in Argentina

Gráfico 17. Evolución Función CyT (2002-2025)



- 5), tanto como anteayer fue en octubre
- ta de 2007; cayeron 179,2 mm.
- rat Meteorólogos consultados por LA NACION aseguraron que tormenco- tas como esta serán más frecuen-
- do tes conforme avance el tiempo. Los
- nio efectos del cambio climático global
- ho hacen de este evento, según expli-
- hía caron, parte de "lo que se viene" en
- años posteriores. Estos meteorólo-gos pidieron no revelar su nombre
- por miedo a represalias por parte des del Gobierno. Desde que se inició
- ral la presidencia de Javier Milei, tan-
- 100 to en el SMN como en otros orga-
- or- nismos científicos hablar en públi-
- en co sobre el cambio climático está
- am- prohibido.



Cancillería

EXCLUSIVO

Mondino ordenó a los diplomáticos no participar de la Agenda 2030 y en Cancillería dicen que "es como cerrar las embajadas"

LA NACION > Política

Javier Milei advirtió a todo el cuerpo diplomático que quien no acate la línea que él fijó en la ONU debe renunciar

Envió una comunicación en la que ratifica su posición contra la Agenda 2030 de la ONU y dice que ningún diplomático debe acompañar proyectos o declaraciones que se muevan de esa posición

19 de octubre de 2024 🔹 10:11 🔹 👸 6 minutos de lectura

Thank you!

neviavera@fch.unicen.edu.ar











Science Diplomacy Center



Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research Supporting the integration of science into decision-making processes across the Americas History and Mechanisms of IAI

Marcella Ohira Deputy Executive Director and Director for Capacity Building and Science Diplomacy Center



Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research

IAI is an intergovernmental organization serving 19 member states of the Americas & Caribbean **33 years**

The IAI was founded in 1992 by the signing of the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research with the mission to "pursue the principles of scientific excellence and integrity, international cooperation, science outreach, and capacity building, and the full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global change to reach the vision of a sustainable Americas."













Open Data/Science Policy

Gender + EDI Policy



Scientific agenda of IAI:

19

Member countries

Non-member countries

www.iai.int





A Regional Initiative to foster science-policy dialogue and collaboration for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Americas.

F	PILLARS			
	Capacity Building:	Science Diplomacy Knowledge Hub:	Emerging	
	Enhance the capacity of professionals and institutions to understand and implement science diplomacy.	A platform where countries can access information, regional case studies, scientific literature, policy papers, and national science diplomacy strategies, among others to foster knowledge sharing across borders.	Convene r communit dialogue a between s decision-r Americas global cha	



Science Diplomacy Center



Issues:

relevant ties to promote and collaboration scientists and makers in the on emerging ange issues.

STeP Fellowshop (Science Advisement)

The STeP program trains future leaders from across the Americas to participate the science-policy in interface through hands-on learning supported by professional development and mentorship.



Vision

The Science Diplomacy Center shall contribute to the maintenance of a peaceful and sustainable Americas through innovative transdisciplinary collaborations to address the region's shared challenges and safeguard the livelihoods and well-being of future generations and the planet.

Mission

The Center shall enhance the capacity of Parties (IAI member states) to meet the objectives of the IAI Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening the interface between science and policy, establishing a science diplomacy knowledge hub, and developing open, just, and equitable programs and activities for the Americas to meet the challenges of global change.

For more information, please visit https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/SDC

Program to form Science Advisors for Public and Private Sector

2020-2025 **86 Fellows 15** Countries **27** Nationalities **56 Advanced Disciplines**

Science Technology Policy Fellowship

About STeP

The Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program aims to enhance the capacities of IAI member countries to use scientific evidence to support public policy relevant to global environmental change. Fellows in the STeP program are early to mid-career scientists and policymakers placed at government agencies or private organizations. They engage first-hand with policy and decision-makers and learn how to facilitate the uptake of scientific knowledge into policy processes and improve science-policy dialogue and communication. Through a comprehensive two-year professional development program and mentorship, the STeP program trains future science advisers and leaders across the Americas.

Program Partners:



























New Science Diplomacy Curriculum

Science Diplomacy and **Global Environmental** Change in the Americas



Minister Conversation Series

A collaboration between the AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy and the IAI Science Diplomacy Center



Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research

Credit: Luara Baggi, Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação

Accepting high-lever SD interviews





www.science-diplomacy.eu contact@science-diplomacy.eu

Contraction Contra

Co-funded by the European Union