

## **Working Group Proposal: North-South Research Collaborations – For Whom and For What?**

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Research partnerships on sustainable development between North and South have been going on for many years and have continued to generate interest as the threat of climate change on society has become more evident. However, the need for solutions and effective models dealing with sustainable development as a societal challenge is still prevalent.

It is generally assumed that bi-regional research partnerships on global challenges are better as they give allow for knowledge transfer, interaction, bi-regional dialogue and a greater understanding of North-South perspectives. However world research output from southern countries is very low, with Sub-Sahara Africa contributing only 0.7% and Latin America, though increasing it's scientific output, stands at 4.4% and has seen unequal distribution within the region. Impacts of North-South research collaborations on sustainable development are also sporadically documented and a wholesome view of how these have impacted policy, projects and innovations is lacking.

We invite researchers and practitioners to critically analyse the impact of North-South research collaborations in the following contexts:

- Considering the low research output from southern countries, are current North-South research collaborations on sustainable development a true reflection of joint perspectives?
- Are North-South research collaborations important and useful in defining goals for Sustainable Development? If so how can they act as platforms for mapping out these goals?
- How have the existing collaborations in research impacted innovations for sustainable development?
- How can North-South collaborations support the implementation of research results and policies?
- What kind of North-South collaborations should policy makers support to achieve sustainable development?