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Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development

Statement by

Objectif Sciences International

High-level panel on Global Cooperation on STI for Development

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Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development benefit from alliance of strategic planning, research and development, innovation and enablers. A very special mix of all of this took the name of Participatory Research and allow enabling citizens in creating their own solutions supporting the governmental policies for SDGs.

Participatory research consists of real research projects carried out by young people or non-scientist adults. Anyone can become a science volunteer, regardless of their knowledge or skills. Our trained science educators, scientists using educational tools developed by OSI, help volunteers acquire the skills they need to take part in their participatory research project (involvement, empowerment and empowerment). Science education, scientific reasoning and (re)connecting with nature are incredible ways of enabling people to take responsibility for the sustainable development of our planet.

Today's environmental challenges demonstrate the importance of helping the citizens of today and tomorrow to acquire the critical thinking and rigour that comes from practising science. It also helps young and old alike to take responsibility and develop their autonomy, so that they can play a leading role in the changes they want to see.

Participatory science has the potential to facilitate and reinforce government policies in favour of sustainable development objectives. A research project that is decided to identify the details of a problem to be solved is carried out with the citizens concerned. This bottom-up approach to community involvement can be applied to any subject (biodiversity, food, living conditions for women and children, renewable energy, and many others). So, when a government policy is defined, citizens are, on the one hand, already involved in the decision, since they are the co-authors, and on the other hand, they have acquired a better understanding of the issue. This makes it doubly easy to implement the policy. What's more, it is supported over time by generations and has a long-term impact.

However, the benefits of participatory science go much further (responsibility, social inclusion, adaptability, etc.). They can be implemented in many different ways, and their educational and scientific power can make a major contribution to sustainable development and peace in the world.
All United Nations agencies and programmes can be directly involved. From UNESCO to UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, Desert, Habitat, UNHCR and all the other organisations, not forgetting the UN's internal services, absolutely every type of objective can benefit greatly from participatory science to achieve their goals more effectively.

Ten points on the benefits of participatory science and research for government policy in the context of the SDGs :

Community engagement: Local communities are involved in the research process, fostering ownership and understanding of sustainability issues.

Holistic perspectives: draws on diverse local knowledge and perspectives, ensuring that policies are aligned with real-world challenges and solutions.

Data accuracy: harnessing citizen-generated data, improving data coverage and accuracy for informed decision-making.

Innovation: Encourages creative problem solving and co-creation of solutions, promoting new approaches to achieving sustainable goals.

Capacity building: Enables communities to acquire scientific skills, strengthening their ability to contribute to and understand policy decisions.

Bottom-up approach: Gives priority to grassroots initiatives, resulting in policies that truly reflect people's needs.

Accountability: Increases transparency and accountability, as policies are more likely to be aligned with public expectations and aspirations.

Social inclusion: Reduces disparities by involving marginalised groups, leading to policies that address equity and inclusion.

Adaptability: Enables policies to evolve rapidly by incorporating real-time data and adaptive strategies based on local conditions.

Long-term impact: Fosters a lasting commitment to sustainable practices, as communities become invested in the success of the policies they have helped to develop.