As 13 May 2026

Agenda

The 14th Global Research Council (GRC) Annual Meeting 2026

18th Monday – 22nd Friday May 2026

Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Date and time	Program	Venue
18 May 2026	Pre-meetings & side events	
From 08:30	Registration Reception	3rd Floor
09.00 – 10.30	Parallel Sessions: Side event	
09.00 – 10.30	**Side event 1:** **Harnessing Systems Thinking, Open Science, and Research Metrics to Maximize SDG Impact: Advancing Sustainable and Resilient Communities** This side event will explore how research funders can accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating open science, systems thinking, and SDG-aligned impact metrics across the research cycle. Building on the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, the session will consider how its four pillars—open knowledge, infrastructures, communication, and engagement with diverse actors—can be embedded in funding strategies to strengthen transparency and inclusivity. It will highlight how systems approaches help funders understand interdependencies, design coherent portfolios, and support place-based interventions. Participants will share practical experiences and co-develop recommendations and candidate metrics to guide funders in designing transparent, accountable, and collaborative programmes that advance equitable, sustainable community outcomes. Organized by - NRF, South Africa - MESTI, Ghana - DOST, Philippines - KACST, Saudi Arabia	Suriya, 2nd Floor (100 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
	Side event 2: **Enhancing and navigating global initiatives: the role of research funding organisations in international R&I movements on research assessment reform** Research assessment sits at the heart of public research funding and strongly influences how research is conducted and valued. In recent years, responsible research assessment has gained global prominence, with growing leadership from the GRC, Science Europe, and international initiatives such as DORA and CoARA. While this expanding ecosystem offers valuable opportunities for collaboration and learning, it also presents practical challenges related to alignment, resourcing, and implementation. This session brings together key partners to map the current landscape, identify opportunities for coordination, and explore how funders—and the GRC—can act as catalysts for coherent and sustainable research assessment reform Organized by Science Europe and RRA Working Group	Lumpini, 3rd Floor (120 pers)
10.30 – 10.40	Coffee/Tea Break	
10.40 – 12.10	**Parallel Sessions: Side event**	
10.40 – 12.10	**Side event 3:** **Inclusive Open Science in Practice: Funders, Knowledge Cultures, and EMCR Empowerment for a Sustainable Research Ecosystem** Open Science is most impactful when policy, practice, and people move in concert. This 90-minute session blends (i) funders' perspectives on operationalizing Open Science principles across the research and innovation landscape, (ii) inclusion of multiple knowledge cultures and community co-creation, and (iii) empowerment of early- and mid-career researchers (EMCRs) for open publishing, FAIR/CARE-aligned data sharing, and science–society engagement. The format combines short invited presentations with a facilitated HORCs panel. The aim is to reframe inclusive and equitable Open Science for sustainable development by connecting policy to practice and community engagement,	Suriya, 2nd Floor (100 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
	while foregrounding respect for diverse knowledge systems and capacity building for the next generation of researchers. Organized by - Secretariat of the MENA Councils - NRF, South Africa - IDRC, Canada - NRCT, Thailand - Global Young Academy	
	Side event 2 (Continuation): **Enhancing and navigating global initiatives: the role of research funding organisations in international research and innovation movements on research assessment reform (Part 2)**	Lumpini, 3rd Floor (120 pers)
12.10 – 13.30	Lunch at Napalai, 1st Floor	
13.30 – 15.00	**Parallel Sessions: Side event**	
13.30 – 15.00	**Side event 4:** **Multilateral Engagements: challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation (part 1)** The side event will review existing Multilateral Engagements (MLEs) across GRC regions and outline a roadmap for future cooperation. It draws on findings from a desk study and survey by the MLE Working Group, highlighting lessons learned, regional challenges, and opportunities to strengthen collaboration. Practical regional examples will show how coordinated efforts expand networks, foster inclusive participation, and transform national programmes into sustainable multilateral platforms. Through discussion, participants will help identify actionable options and clarify the GRC's role in promoting equitable, diverse, and effective multilateral engagement, both globally and from a regional perspective. Organized by - MLE-WG - MESTI, Ghana - NRF, South Africa - ANII, Uruguay - IDRC, Canada - RCN Norway - SNSF, Switzerland - FONSTI, Côte d'Ivoire - FORMAS, Sweden - NSFC, China - TÜBİTAK, Türkiye - KNR, Kenya	Lumpini, 3rd Floor (120 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
	- ANID, Chile - NWO, Netherlands - TCST, Tanzania	
	Side event 5: **Diamond Open Access as a Foundation for Research Sovereignty and Trust in Science** This side event will examine how Diamond Open Access, a community-driven scholarly publishing model, can advance inclusive and equitable open science for sustainable development. By removing financial barriers for readers and authors, Diamond OA strengthens research sovereignty, supports locally governed editorial practices, promotes multilingual dissemination, and increases the visibility of context-specific research. The discussion builds on growing global momentum around Diamond OA, aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science and the 2022 Action Plan for Diamond OA. It also contributes to ongoing dialogue fostered through recent Global Summits on Diamond OA held in Mexico, South Africa, and India. Organized by - Science Europe - TÜBİTAK, Türkiye - MInT, Ethiopia - FUNDECIT, Angola - ANR, France - BRIN, Indonesia - NRF, South Africa - NSERC, Canada - RCN, Norway - TSRI, Thailand	Silom, 3rd Floor (70 pers)
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee/Tea Break	
15.30 – 17.00	**Parallel Sessions: Side event**	
15.30 – 17.00	**Side event 4 (continuation):** **Multilateral Engagements: challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation (Part 2)**	Lumpini, 3rd Floor (120 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
	Side event 6: **Frontiers of Funding: Global Insights from Metascience** This side event explores how funders can improve the quality and impact of research investment by using metascience to generate better evidence for decision-making. Senior leaders from four GRC regions will share insights from national experiments and reforms aimed at strengthening funding processes and supporting high-risk, high-reward research. A global overview of metascience trends will highlight how the field is expanding internationally, feeding into a panel discussion on what works—and what still needs testing—to enhance R&D systems. Reflections from Japan and South Africa, along with audience Q&A, will help shape a shared understanding of emerging priorities. Organized by - UKRI, United Kingdom - ARC, Australia - SSHRC, Canada - NCRST, Namibia - RCN, Norway - JST, Japan - NRF, South Africa	Silom, 3rd Floor (70 pers)
17.00	End of the Business Day	
17.15 – 18.30	Executive Support Group (ESG) (closed session)	Silom, 3rd floor (70 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
19 May 2026	**Pre-meetings & side events**	
05.00 – 08.00	**TSRI x GRC FunD Run: Run for a Sustainable World**	**Lumpini Park**
From 08:30	**Registration Reception**	
09.00 – 10.30	**Parallel Sessions: Side event**	
9.00 – 10.30	**Side event 7:** **Advancing Inclusive Open Science Ecosystems: Perspectives from Research Funders and Global Partners** This session will explore how research systems can become more inclusive, accessible, and responsive to local contexts. It will present initial findings from an EDI Working Group survey of GRC participants on inclusive and equitable open science, alongside a keynote contribution. In collaboration with UNESCO and the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), the session will also share a pilot study establishing gender-sensitive National Committees in three countries to design and implement good practices and policy approaches to support women in STEM. The session will bring these perspectives together to consider how funders can more effectively embed equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across open science practices and funding systems. Organized by - EDI-WG - The Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (TWAS/OWSD)	Silom, 3rd Floor (60 pers)
9.00 – 10.30	**Side event 8:** **Global perspectives on fostering Curiosity-Driven Research (CDR)** Hosted by the DFG, INSF and NRF SA, and in preparation for the GRC 2027 Annual Meeting, this side event provides a platform to explore the global relevance and value of curiosity-driven research (CDR). While research systems worldwide face increasing pressure to demonstrate short-term societal impact, particularly in times of climate crises, pandemics, and economic instability, long-term scientific progress depends fundamentally on sustained investment in curiosity-driven inquiry. Participants will collectively reflect on	Suriya, 2nd Floor (100 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
	how CDR can be strengthened globally and how the GRC community can contribute to fostering robust, resilient, and innovative research ecosystems worldwide. Organized by - NRF, South Africa - DFG, Germany - INSF, Iran	
10.30 – 10.40	Coffee/Tea Break	
10.40 – 12.00	**Parallel Sessions**	
10.40 – 12.00	Collaboration and Neutrality Task Group (CNT) Consultation Town Hall **(for HORCs of GRC participating organisations only)** Heads of Research Councils from GRC Participant Organisations are invited to a Townhall session to continue shaping the GRC's approach to collaboration and neutrality, building on the 2025 consultations and informing next steps for inclusive international cooperation	Suriya, 2nd Floor (100 pers)
10.40 – 11.20	Responsible Research Assessment Working Group Working Group **(Internal Meeting)**	Silom, 3rd Floor (60 pers)
10.40 – 11.20	Multilateral Engagement Working Group **(Internal Meeting)**	Lumpini, 3rd Floor (100 pers)
11:20 – 12.00	Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group (**Internal Meeting)**	Silom, 3rd Floor (60 pers)
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch at Napalai, 1st Floor	
13.00 – 14.30	**Regional Meetings**	
	13.00 – 14:30: Americas	Library, 3rd Floor (25 pers)
	12.45 – 13.25: Asia-Pacific	Lumpini, 3rd Floor (100 pers)
	12.45 – 13.25: Europe	Suriya, 2nd Floor (100 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
	13.25 – 14.30: Joint meeting between Asia-Pacific and Europe	Lumpini, 3rd Floor
	13.00 – 14.30: Middle East/North Africa	Silom 2, 3rd Floor (30 pers)
	13.00 – 14.30: Sub-Saharan Africa	Silom 1, 3rd Floor (40 pers)
14:30 – 14:45	Transition Break	
14:45 – 16:45	Governing Board Meeting **(closed session)**	Silom 1, 3rd Floor (40 pers)
17:00 – 18:30	Global South HORCs Meeting **(closed session**)	Silom 2, 3rd Floor (30 pers)
17.00 – 18.30	Joint Working Group (RRA, EDI, MLE) / ESG Liaisons Meeting **(closed session**)	Vimarn, 2nd Floor (100 pers)
14:30 – 18:30	Bilaterals	
18:30	End of the Business Day	
19.00 – 21.00	Networking Welcome Reception	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
20 May 2026	**Main Event Day 1**	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
From 08.30	**Registration and Welcome Coffee Reception**	
09.00 – 10:00	**Opening Ceremony** **Session Chair: Prof.Dr. Vissanu Meeyoo**, Vice President of Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI)	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
09.00 – 09.15	**Welcome remarks** • **Prof. Dr. Alejandro Adem (HORC)** - Governing Board Chair and Co-host of the 2026 Annual Meeting: President of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada • **Prof. Dr. Sompong Klaynongsruang (HORC)** – Governing Board: Co-host of the 2026 Annual Meeting: President of Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI)	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
09.15 – 09.45	**Opening Keynote Speech** • **09.15 – 09.30:** **Prof. Dr. Yodchanan Wongsawat** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Ministry of Higher Education Science Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand • **09.30 – 09.40:** **H.E. Ms. Ping Kitnikone,** Ambassador of Canada to Thailand • **09.40 - 09.45:** **Prof. France Anne Córdova**, President of the Science Philanthropy Alliance United States (video)	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
09.45 – 10.00	**Introduction of HORCS** (video)	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
10.00 – 14.00	**Session 1: Topic 1, Open Science** **Session Chair: Prof Mari Sundli Tveit (HORC),** Governing Board Vice-Chair: Chief Executive Officer at Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
10.00 – 10.20	**Keynote Speech: By representative of NSERC and UKRI** • **10.00 – 10.10:** **Assoc. Prof. Leslie Chan**, University of Toronto Scarborough, Canada • **10.10 – 10.20:** **Prof. Christopher Smith (HORC) -** International Champion at UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
10:20 – 10:50	**Lightning Talks on Topic 1** • **Americas: Mr. Alvaro Brunini (HORC)**, Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII), Uruguay • **APAC: Prof. Dr. Arif Satria (HORC)**,Chairman of the National Research and Innovation Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (BRIN), Indonesia • **Europe: Claire Giry (HORC),** President and CEO of the French National Research Agency (ANR), France • **MENA: HE Dr. Munir Eldesouki (HORC),** President of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), and	

Date and time	Program	Venue
	Governor of Research, Development, and Innovation (RDIA), Saudi Arabia • **SSA: Dr. Angus Paterson (HORC) -** Acting CEO, National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa	
10:50 – 11:00	Transition into Breakout groups	
11:00 – 12:00	**Break-out Groups** **Parallel Session Chairs:** • **Americas: Dr. Daniel Salamone (HORC),** Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) • **APAC: Mr. John Lim (HORC),** Chief Executive Officer, National Research Foundation (NRF), Singapore (online) • **Europe: Dr. Lidia, Borrell-Damián (HORC),** Secretary General, Science Europe (SE) • **MENA: Prof. Abdelmajid BenAmara (HORC),** Secretary-General of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC) • **SSA: Dr. Yaya Sangaré (HORC) -** Executive Secretary, Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI), Cote d'Ivoire	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch at Pavilion Restaurant, G Floor (100 seats) / Vimarn, 2nd Floor (200 seats)	
13:00 - 13:30	**Reporting from Breakout Groups** **Regional Rapporteurs:** • **Americas: Ms. Ana Vasquez,** Head of International Cooperation, Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII), Uruguay • **APAC: Ms. Grace Estillore**, Chief, Policy Coordination and Monitoring Division (PCMD), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine • **Europe: Dr. Bregt Saenen,** Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe (SE) • **MENA: Eng. Dina Alnakib,** Senior Director, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Kuwait • **SSA: Dr. Nokuthula Mchunu,** Director, International Partnerships and Grants, National Research Foundation (NRF) South Africa	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
13:30 – 13:40	**Endorsement of Statement of Principle for Topic 1** **Prof. Mari Sundli Tveit,** Research Council of Norway, Norway	
13:40 - 14:45	**Case Studies Presentations -** **GRC Statements of Principles: Principles to Practice** **Chair: Prof. Torsten Schwede, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland** • **Americas:** Dr. Charah Watson, Scientific Research Council (SRC) • **APAC HORC: TBC** • **Europe HORC: Mrs. Tjaša Dobnik, Director of the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS)** • **MENA: •Prof. Ali Bumajdad,** Chief Research & Technology Officer - Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Kuwait • **SSA: Dr Cephas Adjei Mensah (HORC) -** Director, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MEST), Ghana:	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
14:45 – 15:15	Group Photo	Lumpini, 3rd floor
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break / Bilaterals	
15:30 – 16.10	**Session 2: Presentations on GRC Activities** **Session Chair: Dr. Agus Haryono (HORC),** GRC Governing Board, Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	
15:30 – 15:45	**Governing Board Chair Presentation** • **Prof. Alejandro Adem (HORC)** - President of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
15:45 - 16:10	**Executive Secretary Presentation** • **Michael Bright-** GRC Executive Secretary, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), UK	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
16:10	End of Business Day	
16.10 – 16.45	Fresh up	
16.45 – 18.00	Travel to Chaopraya River, pick up point at Dusit Thani Hotel	
18.00 – 20.00	Gala Dinner	

Date and time	Program	Venue
21 May 2026	**Main Event Day 2**	
07.30 - 08.30	Governing Board Members Breakfast **(closed meeting)**	Pavilion Restaurant, G Floor
From 08.30	Registration and Welcome Reception	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
09.00 – 12.00	**Session 3: Topic 2, Research for Sustainable Communities** **Session Chair:** **• Ms. Danette Olsen, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), New Zealand**	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
09.00 – 09.20	**Keynote Speech** **By representative of NSERC and TSRI** • **09.00 – 9.10:** **Prof. Ursala Eicker** - Concordia University Montréal, Canada • **09.10 – 9.20:** **Dr. Kobsak Pootrakool -** Executive Director of Bangkok Bank, Thailand	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
09.20 – 09.50	Lightning Talks on topic 2 • **Americas:** Ms. Julie Delahanty, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada • **APAC HORC:** Prof. Xiankang Dou, President, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), China • **Europe: Prof. Marcel Levi (HORC)** - President of Executive Board at Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) Netherlands- • **MENA: Dr. Rami Niazy,** Vice Governor, Research Grants & National Programs - Research, Development and Innovation Authority, Saudi Arabia • **SSA: Ms. Neema Tindamanyire**, Senior Research Coordination Officer, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH**)**	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
09:50 – 10:00	Transition into Breakout Groups	
10.00 – 11:00	**Breakout Group Discussions on Topic 2** **Regional Session Chairs** • **Americas: Mrs. Zenia Medina,** Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Peru	

Date and time	Program	Venue
	• **APAC: Prof. Ute Roessner (HORC):** CEO, Australian Research Council (ARC) • **Europe: Dr. Laure Ognois -** GRC Executive Support Group, Head of International Cooperation, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) • **MENA: Dr. Saif Al-Hiddabi (HORC),** President of Research and Innovation Authority (RIA), Oman • **SSA: Prof. Anicia Peters (HORC)-** CEO, National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)	
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee/Tea Break	
11:15 – 11:45	**Working Group Reporting** • **11.15 - 11.25** **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group, co-chairs:** **Nia Glover, Senior International Engagement and Policy Manager,** UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom (UKRI) • **11.25 - 11.35** **Multilateral Engagement Working Group co-chairs:** **Prof. Hassan Y.Alayied, -** Advisor to KACST President for International Affairs, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), Saudi Arabia **Dr. Sharapiya Kakimova -** Head of Internationalisation Unit Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo (ANID), Chile • **11.35 - 11.45** **Responsible Research Assessment Working Group** **Nosisa Dube,** Manager, National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa and **Dr. Giovanna Lima**, DORA, United States,	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
11:45 – 12:15	**Reporting from Breakout Groups on Topic 2** • **Americas: Dr. Moacyr Ayres Novaes Filho,** Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPES), Brazil • **APAC: Ms. Reiko Yuguchi, Director,** Singapore Office, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japan • **Europe: Dr. Melissa Lennartz-Walker** - Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe (SE)	

Date and time	Program	Venue
	• **MENA Dr. Salah Al Zadjali, D**irector Gerneral of Research Programs and Capacity Building - Research and Innovation Authority (RIA) • **SSA: Dr. Sepo Hachigonta -** Acting Group Executive, Business Advancement, National Research Foundation (NRF) South Africa	
12:15 – 12:20	**Endorsement of Statement of Principles for Topic 2** **Endorsement of Call to Action for Topic 1 and 2** **HORC:** Ms. Danette Olsen, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
12:20 – 13:20	Lunch at Pavilion Restaurant, G Floor (100 seats) / Vimarn, 2nd Floor (200 seats)	
13:20 – 15.00	**Session 4: Regional hot topics and Farewell** **Session Chair: Prof. Katja Becker,** German Research Foundation (DFG), Germany	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
13.20 – 14.20	Regional hot topic discussion • **Americas: Mr. Kori St-Cyr,** Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) • **APAC: NRCT (TBC)** • **Europe: Prof. Krzysztof JóŹwiak (HORC) -** Director at National Science Centre (NCN), Poland • **MENA: Prof. Chadi Abdallah, Secretary General, CNRS-L-Lebanon** • **SSA: Dr. Amos Nungu (HORC) -** Director General Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), Tanzania	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
14.20 – 14.40	**Presentation from the Hosts of the 2027 Annual Meeting National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the German Research Foundation (DFG)** • **Dr. Angus Paterson (HORC) -** Acting Chief Executive Officer at National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa • **Prof. Dr. Katja Becker (HORC)**, President of German Research Foundation (DFG), Germany	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)

Date and time	Program	Venue
14.40 – 15:00	Final Remarks and Farewell by Co-hosts • **14.40 – 14.55:** **Prof. Dr. Alejandro Adem (HORC)** - Governing Board Chair and Co-host of the 2026 Annual Meeting: President of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada • **14.55 – 15.00:** **Prof. Dr. Sompong Klaynongsruang (HORC) -** Governing Board: Co-host of the 2026 Annual Meeting: President of Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), Thailand	Napalai 1, 1st floor (400 pers)
15:00 – 16:30	Collaboration and Neutrality Task Group (CNT) meeting **(closed session)**	Silom 1, 3rd Floor (40 pers)
16:30 – 17:30	International Steering Committee **(closed session)**	Silom 1, 3rd floor (35 pers)
17:30 – 19:00	Executive Support Group (ESG) Washup **(closed session)**	Silom 1, 3rd floor (35 pers)
19:00	End of Business Day	
22 May 2026	**Excursion**	
8.00 – 12.00	• **Route 1**: *Maximum 50 Persons, Ayuttaya* **Point 1**: **Wat Mahathat, Ayuttaya** https://maps.app.goo.gl/9TP97dVF8QRzLtWf6 **Point 2**: **Chao Sam Phraya National Museum** https://maps.app.goo.gl/uHDRyHW8GyLwMo957 • **Route 2:** *Maximum 50 Persons, Bangkok* **Grand Palace / National Museum/ Wat Pho, Bangkok** https://maps.app.goo.gl/zfZUQeXhu3ckkQLY8	Ayutthaya & Bangkok

May 2026

GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Statement of Principles: Open Science

Preamble[1,2]

Policy discussions regarding Open Science (OS) have evolved beyond questions of access and ethics (responsible OS) to interrogate whose knowledge counts, who sets agendas, who is resourced, and who benefits. To avoid reproducing inequities, OS should actively support the co-creation and stewardship of knowledge across diverse knowledge systems, including Indigenous, local, and practice-based traditions.

OS is essential for addressing global challenges and may contribute to strengthening trust in science. By opening up the entire research life cycle, OS can foster transparency, accessibility, collaboration, and public engagement to accelerate scientific discovery and amplify societal impact. However, OS is not a one-size-fits-all technical solution. To be transformative, OS should be accessible to all: multilingual, transdisciplinary, and open to groups beyond the traditional scientific community who engage in the research cycle and represent diverse knowledge systems, while respecting the principle of being "as open as possible and as secure as necessary".

As the global forum of public research funders, the Global Research Council (GRC) participants play a critical role in shaping how OS is interpreted, implemented, and governed across regions and disciplines. The 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on OS provides a globally endorsed normative framework that informs this Statement of Principles for GRC participating organizations. Its four pillars are helpful in framing areas for action: (i) open scientific knowledge, (ii) open science infrastructures, (iii) open engagement of social actors, and (iv) open dialogue with other knowledge systems. Research funders have mostly concentrated their efforts on the first two pillars and are now turning attention to how they can better engage with other actors and knowledge systems, thus supporting bibliodiversity, multilingualism, data privacy and governance, and care.

Open Science should be implemented in ways that are accessible, context-sensitive, and ethically governed, ensuring broad access to knowledge while respecting community rights and addressing power asymmetries. Challenges such as linguistic domination and colonial legacies require attention.

In alignment with the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on OS and the 2026 GRC Statement of Principles on Research for Sustainable Communities, the following principles articulate how GRC

[1] The Global Research Council is a voluntary, participant-based organization that recognizes the different missions, mandates and remits of its participant organizations within their respective national research eco-systems. Its positions, decisions or statements are non-binding on participant organizations. Endorsement of such reflects that participant organizations may adopt statements in ways that are consistent with national policies and priorities.

[2] While the U.S. National Science Foundation remains committed to the GRC as an organization dedicated to collaboration and cooperation among research funding agencies, NSF is not in a position to endorse the 2026 Statements of Principles and Call to Action, as their content is not consistent with agency and U.S. administration priorities.

participating organizations understand and seek to advance OS in diverse national, regional, and disciplinary contexts, while designing strategies that consider local needs and conditions.

Principles

Regional and community-led governance

Advancing open science that genuinely promotes benefit and opportunity for all requires regional and community-led governance and culturally sensitive policy design, as well as equitable funding and policy mechanisms that ensure participation from, and empowerment of all regions and groups.

Regional and community-led governance requires support through capacity-strengthening efforts and shared infrastructure such as open repositories and interoperable data systems. Effective governance and funding processes should be grounded in shared principles and supported by monitoring mechanisms and organizations that serve as platforms for knowledge exchange and policy dialogue. Frameworks such as required data management plans and FAIR (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse of digital assets), TRUST (Transparency, Responsibility, User Focus, Sustainability, and Technology), and POSI (Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure) are essential guides for open science governance.

Well-designed governance plans demonstrate meaningful community participation, equitable resource allocation, and transparent decision-making structures. Funding programs should consider allocation of resources for capacity-strengthening, shared infrastructure, and long-term stewardship of open repositories and data systems.

Data privacy, governance, ownership, and self-determination

Data ownership, self-determination, and informed consent, including community-engaged input on data privacy and governance, should be required as a best practice for scientific research. Indigenous and local knowledge should be recognized and protected. Research funders should require that projects involving Indigenous or local knowledge demonstrate appropriate governance, informed consent processes, and benefit-sharing arrangements. Furthermore, research awards involving Indigenous or local knowledge may include clear governance frameworks, documented consent processes, and equitable benefit-sharing arrangements.

Useful starting points regarding Indigenous knowledge systems and Indigenous data sovereignty include ethical governance frameworks developed by and with Indigenous communities, such as the Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®) principles developed by First Nations in Canada and the Global Indigenous Data Alliance's Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, and Ethics (CARE) Principles for Indigenous Data Governance.

As open as possible, as secure as necessary

Openness should be designed not only as a technical objective but also as an ethical and relational practice, attentive to context, responsibility, and consequence. Openness should be guided by the

principle “as open as possible, as secure as necessary,” recognizing legitimate considerations related to privacy and data governance, Indigenous data sovereignty, ecological stewardship, cultural protocols, intellectual property, research security, and other economic and national interests. Accordingly, openness and security are complementary and mutually reinforcing forces that should be considered in unison.

In this context, decisions about sharing and access are best understood as conditional, consultative, and responsive to evolving circumstances and community perspectives, while giving consideration to potential disparate impacts on different groups of people. Respecting Indigenous and community protocols strengthens the foundations for a plural, equitable, and sustainable global knowledge ecosystem that respects the security, sensitivities, and integrity of its participants. This principle extends to data management policies and to review processes that consider both openness and responsible safeguards, such as controlled access management for research data, as legitimate dimensions of quality and impact.

Ecological and social sustainability

GRC participating organizations should work together to identify effective ways to ease the bibliometric burden on academics both financial and in terms of publication metrics. This includes encouraging funding approaches that strengthen community-led initiatives and ensure that public investments support a broad range of open and equitable publishing options, thereby reducing the burden of article processing and other author-facing charges.

Open science efforts should also recognize the environmental dimensions of data-intensive research and artificial intelligence (AI), which often disproportionately affect certain regions and communities, and promote practices that responsibly manage energy, water, land, and e-waste footprints while enabling continued innovation.

Regional and structural inequities

Open Science has the opportunity to address persistent regional and structural inequities across the global research ecosystem. Disparities in infrastructure, funding capacity, authorship, data ownership, language, and visibility risk reinforcing existing gaps and challenges if not deliberately mitigated. No region or country should function primarily as a data provider without equitable participation in agenda-setting, governance, ownership, authorship, infrastructure development, and benefit-sharing. The importance of local ownership of data and knowledge should be recognized, and public research funders have a responsibility to embed access and opportunities for all within funding policies, partnership models, and evaluation systems. The GRC has a pivotal role to play in bridging global, regional and local divides and fostering responsible, accessible, and trustworthy knowledge ecosystems by exchanging best practices.

Infrastructure as a public good

Open Science risks reinforcing existing hierarchies without explicit attention to power, structural inequities, infrastructure gaps, and language. Diamond open-access models, repositories owned by universities and public institutions, and support for multiple languages are key levers for

equitable access and may be complemented by investments dedicated to infrastructure maintenance and long-term sustainability.

Research funding councils should prioritize stewardship of Open Science platforms and repositories, with public, private or non-profit institutions, and be guided by multi-stakeholder oversight, including representation from research communities, data stewards, and relevant societal and knowledge-holding groups, from all regions.

Responsible research assessment

Further to the GRC's 2021 Call to Action on Responsible Research Assessment and the 2024 Dimensions of Responsible Research Assessment, it is recognized that a shift away from biased metrics and narrow journal-based indicators toward responsible research assessment is essential to valuing work that is locally relevant and societally impactful. GRC participating organizations seek to align Open Science policies with reforms in research assessment, ensuring that open practices, diverse outputs, and societal engagement are recognized and rewarded.

Funders should align evaluation criteria, reviewer guidance, and reporting frameworks with responsible research assessment principles, ensuring that open practices, diverse research outputs, community engagement, and societal contributions are formally recognized and rewarded in funding decisions.

May 2026

Statement of Principles: Research for Sustainable Communities

Preamble[1,2]

Given the rise of the climate emergency, growing inequalities, and rapid urbanization, research is needed to support the transformation of cities and communities worldwide into sustainable, accessible and livable places, including rural and peri-urban areas, informal and other diverse settlements. As publicly funded organizations, Global Research Council (GRC) participants recognize their responsibility to foster positive societal impacts from their investments. Research can support the identification and understanding of challenges, as well as novel implementation approaches that advance broad societal needs at the local, regional, and global level. This includes advancing healthy and resilient environments, where social and community risk factors are addressed to promote the well-being of all.

GRC participants are reimagining what research for sustainable communities and cities means. It represents a shift from research *on* communities to research *with* communities, grounded in opportunities for all and resilience. Such research is no longer judged only by what it produces, but by the transformations it contributes to people's lives and local systems, while recognizing that meaningful change is incremental and unfolds over extended time horizons.

Through this joint vision for sustainable communities, the GRC can build on already established broad and universal principles to support localized but scalable solutions. Building upon the 2024 GRC Statement of Principles on Sustainable Research, and in alignment with the 2026 GRC Statement of Principles on Open Science, participants in the 2026 Annual Meeting of the GRC recognize the following principles as fundamental to publicly-funded research for sustainable communities:

Principles

Research *by* and *with* communities

GRC participants can help drive efforts that integrate local knowledge systems – including Indigenous knowledge systems – as active partners in the co-design of research agendas and priorities, wherever appropriate. Research for sustainable communities seeks to address multiple

[1] The Global Research Council is a voluntary, participant-based organization that recognizes the different missions, mandates and remits of its participant organizations within their respective national research eco-systems. Its positions, decisions or statements are non-binding on participant organizations. Endorsement of such reflects that participant organizations may adopt statements in ways that are consistent with national policies and priorities.

[2] While the U.S. National Science Foundation remains committed to the GRC as an organization dedicated to collaboration and cooperation among research funding agencies, NSF is not in a position to endorse the 2026 Statements of Principles and Call to Action, as their content is not consistent with agency and U.S. administration priorities.

challenges by co-creating, testing, evaluating, and scaling solutions that support effective and scalable implementation. It integrates diverse knowledge domains (legal, financial, participatory, technical, social and health) to enable successful transformation projects.

Research for sustainable communities aims to improve the quality of life for all members of the community and overcome barriers while safeguarding community identity, cultural heritage, and ways of life, ensuring that transformation strengthens local values that advance access and opportunity for all, and resilience. Training to build researchers' capacity to conduct research with communities is also important.

GRC participating organizations recognize the importance of funding Citizen Participation in Science programs. They also recognize the importance of funding policy research, which investigates who drives change (including policymakers, urban planners, community leaders, and private sector actors), and who is included or excluded from shaping decisions and outcomes.

Success means societal and environmental benefits

GRC participants agree to responsibly reconsider assessment and evaluation systems that currently prioritize short-term outcomes and individual academic careers over long-term societal benefit. In accordance with the GRC Dimensions of Responsible Research Assessment, and instead of measuring research success mostly in terms of publications, data, or global visibility, the impact of research for sustainability is best assessed by whether communities are more resilient, involved, empowered, and able to shape their own futures because of the research.

Social benefit goes hand-in-hand with environmental benefit; research organizations should strive to preserve and protect natural environments by supporting long-term environmental stewardship in their operations and research activities. A healthy environment is an essential precondition for community wellbeing.

Socially and environmentally beneficial use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research

The development and application of AI and digital tools in research have the opportunity to revolutionize the way people work and live. To ensure that societies gain from these opportunities, it is crucial that data and models used by AI are available to researchers, innovators and communities in a way that is transparent, secure, and trustworthy.

AI can support development that benefits communities and increase digital and AI literacy by improving access to knowledge, services, and decision-making tools. important to advance opportunities for all, transparency, sustainability, and to ensure benefits are distributed across communities.

AI enabled research can also increase impact through supporting multilingualism in research, a key factor for meaningful community participation. It is also crucial that data and models used by AI are accessible and avoid biases, including algorithmic bias, as addressed in the 2025 GRC Statement of Principles on Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence.

Responsibly and sustainably designed AI can support development that benefits all communities and help narrow digital divides between communities by improving access to knowledge, services, and decision-making tools. AI-enabled research can increase impact when it is evidence-based, transparent, and accountable, and contributes to capacity-building.

Open Science supports research for sustainable communities

Achieving sustainable development requires early and continuous relationship-building, open science and data sharing commitments, and integrated policy and financing frameworks that empower local communities. Both Research for Sustainable Communities and Open Science make clear that for science to address complex global challenges, changes are needed in terms of how the research is governed, valued, and communicated.

Community Awareness and Research Literacy

Effective research for sustainable communities actively supports awareness and understanding among community members of how research can be used as a practical tool to address locally defined challenges.

Building such awareness requires participatory two-way communication, trust-building, and iterative engagement that demystifies research processes and connects directly to community priorities, lived experiences, and decision-making needs.

Access to Research Enablers and Support Systems

Effective community-led and community-engaged research depends on fair access and opportunities to all enabling institutions and resources. Examining and overcoming systemic inequities and constraints expands access, participation, and opportunities for all in research aimed at transforming cities and communities worldwide.

GRC participants recognize the critical role of local and regional universities, research institutes, public agencies, and funding bodies in supporting communities to develop research skills, design relevant projects, and access appropriate funding mechanisms.

These actors function as long-term partners and facilitators, helping bridge gaps between communities, knowledge systems, and policy or funding environments.

Context-sensitive funding and institutional capacity

Research for sustainable communities operates within diverse governance, economic, and institutional contexts. Differences in regional research infrastructure, municipal capacity, and access to long-term financing shape what is feasible and should be considered in funding design to expand opportunity and impact. Public research funders should adopt flexible and context-sensitive funding approaches that account for differing capacities and community realities, including longer time horizons, adaptive grant mechanisms, and targeted support for local and regional institutions. The GRC can promote shared learning and collaboration, to address challenges by expanding access and opportunities.

May 2026

GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Joint Call to Action: Open Science and Research for Sustainable Communities[1,2]

GRC Participating Organizations are encouraged to:

- Position the GRC as a hub for harmonizing AI and Open Science standards, to encourage cross-country cooperation to align data systems, and sharing of best practices.
- Seek alignment with global standards and best practices, thereby linking research directly to environmental, equality, social and economic goals, whilst fostering STI integration, inclusive participatory models, co-governance, and multilingual digital tools in alignment with UNESCO's 2021 Recommendation on Open Science.
- Embed social, ethical, and environmental principles into everyday practices, meetings and conferences of research organizations so that the values they promote are lived out in their own operations.
- Ensure access through sovereign and public infrastructures, prioritizing non-commercial, regionally relevant Open Access models that foster access and opportunity for all as research is translated from labs to industry to citizens.
- Develop flexible grant schemes that recognize the timeframes required to build trust and relationships in grant cycles, pilot programs that test transdisciplinary and accessible methodologies across regions, cater to emergency funding needs, and support community-based research.
- Adopt a more comprehensive understanding of research excellence so that under-recognized outputs and the impacts of community transformation processes are recognized alongside established metrics of academic publications and bibliometric citations. Align evaluation with DORA and CoARA, the GRC Statements of Principles on Recognizing & Rewarding Researchers, the Dimensions of Responsible Research Assessment and the Practical Guide to Implementing Responsible Research Assessment at Research Funding Organizations, and use the Leiden Manifesto and Hong Kong Principles to diversify what "counts."
- Establish AI standards that embed ethics, security, environmental sustainability, and quality into open data management and research funding criteria.
- Resource transdisciplinary projects that connect communities with each other as well as with industry, and cover the costs associated with OS practices and community-engaged research.
- Respect data privacy, governance, ownership, and self-determination by establishing frameworks for ethical data collection and sharing, and supporting models that respect community and individual rights. Integrate local knowledge systems through ethical engagement practices and inclusion of Indigenous metrics in impact evaluations. This includes respect for Indigenous knowledge systems and Indigenous data sovereignty, following Indigenous-led frameworks such as the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance and the First Nations Principles of OCAP.

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