



Global Forum of Funders

Overall conclusions and proposed next steps

Conclusions

1. There is value in regularly convening the Global Forum of Funders (GFF) as an open platform that brings together different types of funders – from the public, private, philanthropic and international development aid sectors – and that facilitates
 - Deliberation on emerging trends, priorities and new initiatives
 - Strategic exchange of information, ideas and best practice approaches
 - The identification and promotion of new partnership opportunities

2. But the Forum must be more than a “talk shop”

It must serve as a community of common purpose, one that is (co-) committed to working with the international scientific community and other stakeholder communities to call for, help shape, and support game-changing, science-based action for global sustainability transformations

3. Game-changing action must

- Recognize and address science and science funding system failures
- Be global in scope
- Equitable in the partnerships it fosters
- Be mission-oriented
- Enable transformative science
- Draw on and add value to existing sustainability science and policy initiatives
- Be bold in its resource mobilization ambitions
- Be unfettered by vested interests, whether at individual, institutional or national levels
- Convene a multi-stakeholder coalition of change
- Be championed at the highest levels of political leadership
- Be put in place rapidly

4. The ‘framework for global action to support transformative, mission-oriented research and scholarship on global sustainability’ that was presented to the Forum during the first day of this meeting provides a useful and appropriately bold starting point, a tractable blueprint for the kind of game-changing action we have in mind

5. But there is work to be done – based on the very valuable contributions made during this meeting – on further elaborating and sharpening that framework:
- What makes it unique? Where does the value-add lie?
 - How does it differ from – and how would it relate to – other international sustainability science initiatives like Future Earth?
 - Is the institutional model of ‘mission centres’ appropriate? What alternative mechanisms for supporting missions should be considered?
 - What kind of funding model would be required?
 - What would the role and responsibility of science funders be?
 - Who else would need to be engaged?
 - What would success look like?

Immediate next steps

1. Work with the the GFF Expert and Steering Committees to revise and finalize the report on “Unleashing Science”
2. Use this report as a basis for further targeted discussion and agreed action – including the possibility of piloting the proposed missions approach – with specific groupings within the GFF
 - Public science funders: The Global Research Council (May) and Belmont Forum (June)
 - International development aid agencies: Sida and IDRC to convene (July?)
 - Foundations: Offers to help us convene a discussion would be welcome (July?)

3. In parallel: identify and bring on board relevant political champions who would be willing to work with the global science and science funding communities to co-design and deliver a campaign and concrete plan of action that is commensurate with the challenge we face
4. Report back before the end of the year to the GFF as a whole; keeping lines of communication – and participation in the Forum – open and active

The International Science Council is committed to continue convening the Global Forum of Funders and leading on the next steps that have been outlined

We seek your mandate and support for us to do so in collaboration with the successful partnership that we have forged with members of the GFF Steering Committee