

# TWAS Rio Declaration

30 September 2025

We, the Fellows of The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS) in attendance at the 32<sup>nd</sup> TWAS General Meeting being held in conjunction with 17<sup>th</sup> General Conference of TWAS in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, hereby convey our support for the following declaration:

*Noting:*

- The global rise of misinformation and disinformation that is undermining science and the search for the truth;
- The dangerous undermining of the evidence-based global scientific consensus reached on major issues impacting the future of the world such as climate change and vaccine safety;
- The replacement of scientific competence by ideology and political loyalty in appointing leaders of state scientific institutions;
- The political attacks on the institutions of science, such as universities, research institutes and non-governmental organisations promoting and undertaking science;
- The ongoing challenge of global inequity in science that perpetuates the brain drain and undermines science in the global South;
- The growing complexity of international policies that are straining North-South scientific collaboration, and the constraints on visas that make it more difficult for students and researcher to study and undertake research abroad, with potential implications for global knowledge exchange; and
- The reduction of funding for international research partnerships in key areas such as health, agriculture, and education, hindering progress on shared global challenges.

*And further noting:*

- The attacks on multi-lateral institutions, especially those that promote science, human rights and equity;
- The challenges faced by science academies, which are institutions that have played a key role in building science globally;
- Conflicts that destroy schools, hospitals, and universities and starve civilians, including scientists;

- The targeting of scientists, journalists, and civilians in wars and geopolitical conflicts across the globe;

We hereby re-affirm:

- Our unwavering support for the scientific method of deriving the truth;
- Our stance on the central importance of science and scientists being independent and not subjugated to political ideologies; and
- Our belief that science has a key role to play in economic development, prosperity, equity, and sustainability.

We hereby condemn:

- The attack and destruction of academic and scientific institutions in conflict zones, as the long-lasting legacy of violent conflicts;
- The starvation of populations including scientists as a weapon of war in conflicts;
- The abuse of science in surveilling and targeting civilians and journalists in conflicts; and
- Political interference in the institutions of science.

And we hereby commit ourselves to promoting:

- Public awareness of science and its centrality in searching for the truth;
- Scientific evidence and truth to counter misinformation and disinformation;
- The political independence of scientific institutions;
- Science academies as fora for scientific exchange and collective voices for scientists;
- The development and building of the next generation of scientists, including strengthening South-South collaboration, and expanding TWAS fellowship programmes in postgraduate education and research;
- The support of refugee, displaced, and at-risk scientists by availing and sharing laboratories and resources, and creating career opportunities for exiles within the global scientific community;
- Evidence-based policy-making by governments, especially when called upon to provide scientific advice;
- The important role of multi-lateral institutions in promoting and supporting global science;

- The strategic role of education for youth and the promotion of digital inclusion in fostering South-South and South-North collaboration; and
- The key role of science and the scientific community in fostering peace and mutual understanding across all boundaries of class, creed, language, or nationality.

Mover : Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim

Seconders : TWAS Fellows present at the 32nd TWAS General Meeting