

Group Work on the Session: "Bringing Science to Politics"

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Participants were divided in a simulation into two groups; one group representing the community of scientists, and the other group representing the community of politicians.

The task was to conduct a brainstorming exercise on answering two main questions:

- What do scientists expect from politicians?
- What do politicians expect from scientists?

The First Question: What do scientists expect from politicians?

The "**Scientists**" Participants of the group proposed the following ideas:

- Integrating their advice as a part of the decision making machinery and processes.
- Creating incentives' systems for those who are caliber in an attempt to flourish scientific and evidence based research.
- Providing political support to scientific research (by eliminating restrictions, providing adequate funding for conducting research, providing necessary capacity building programs ...etc).
- Encouraging and allowing for a regular structural dialogue with politicians.
- Encouraging the establishment of scientific advisory boards to support politicians where scientific advice can be proposed and promoted.
- Advocating transparency in dealing with policy issues.
- Encouraging monitoring and evaluation activities to be undertaken by scientists for assessing and validating public policies.
- Involving them in the political life by nominating the brilliant ones for political posts.

The Second Question: What do politicians expect from scientists?

The "**Politicians**" Participants of the group proposed the following ideas:

- Finding a common language that can bridge the gap between politics and science. This can happen when scientists provide politicians with pragmatic, simple and policy oriented advice (policy briefs, memos,...etc)
- An increased role of intermediary organizations (think tanks, pressure groups...etc) that can bridge the gap between science and politics.
- An increased effort by scientists in anticipating future policy issues and providing early insights on them for politicians.
- Fast response and high quality policy advice.