„Evidence-based debates and decisions“

The Human Right to Science - 10 Nov 2020

Comments by Thomas König
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The Federation of American Scientists congratulates President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris on their historic win.

Fighting climate change, eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons, and defeating the pandemic all require action based on science, evidence, and expertise. **It’s time to restore the role of science in public policy.**

Ali Nouri, FAS President
What is the role of science in public policy?

Most fundamentally, its role is to allow for the promise of good governance by providing accurate information / analysis / knowledge.

1. There is a fine line to tread:
   - it is NOT about decision-making and
   - it is NOT defining what “good governance” is

2. Reciprocity of policy goals and scientific curiosity: Efficiency? Resilience? Sustainability? Fairness?

3. Uneasy relationship between science and democracy
   - Expertise
   - Scientific Freedom
“... to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications”

• A human right should be available to everyone!
• “Open Science” and the availability of knowledge, data, ... 
• The link science - public policy functions as an indicator: on the independence of science, but also on the embeddedness of science!
• Missing in the General Comment: Sustainable Development Goals