



INSTITUT FÜR HÖHERE STUDIEN  
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# „Evidence-based debates and decisions“

The Human Right to Science - 10 Nov 2020

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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.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Nouri', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

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