

THE BARCELONA MANIFESTO

FOR A CITY-LED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY

To everyone who is shaping the future today,

Science and technology have become a crucial tool to build strategic leverage in diplomacy and international affairs. This new role emerges from a redefinition of global challenges such as climate change, food and water security, global health and digitalization. Scientific values of rationality, transparency and universality can help underpin a better global governance and build trust between nations and societies. The soft power of science and technology enables participation and free exchange of ideas, thus contributing to progress, innovation and peace.

This new global order driven by the power of science and technology is also defined by an increasingly relevant geopolitical actor: global cities. By 2025, the 600 largest urban economies in the world will produce 65% of global economic growth. By 2050, nearly 70% of the world population will be urban. Cities are innovation powerhouses, transforming the international scene and bypassing nation-states and their borders. They have become the early adopters of emerging technologies, testbeds for scientific change and autonomous diplomatic players.

In this exciting context, Barcelona has to take the lead. Our city can –and must– become a laboratory for solutions to challenges that respond to a global logic but are manifested at a local level. It is time to place innovative solutions at the service of the city, its citizens and the international community in areas as diverse as energy transition, inequality, the refugee crisis, bioethics, cybersecurity and the impact of artificial intelligence in democracy and human rights. It's time to mobilize our scientific and technical expertise and skills to a broader strategy. It is time for a new urban renaissance. We are ready.

SciTech DiploHub, the Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub, is a non-profit, civil initiative by an interdisciplinary, international team of scientists, engineers and foreign affairs professionals committed to making Barcelona the first city in the world to implement a science and technology diplomacy strategy. Our goals are:

1. To consolidate Barcelona as an **innovation capital**, ready to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through science and technology.
2. To position the city as an **influential geopolitical actor** through science diplomacy. Becoming a **reliable partner** thus paving the way for other global cities committed to developing their own science and technology diplomacy strategies.

3. To promote a sound and **inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue** to design and deploy Barcelona's science diplomacy action plan, through partnerships among the scientific community, startups, policymakers, NGOs, the diplomatic corps, the private sector and civil society.
4. To empower **a global network** of top scientists and technology experts educated in Barcelona to foster international cooperation, showcase our scientific strengths abroad and help us to better understand and interpret key global issues.
5. To become a world-class **think tank** where scientific expertise and innovation can be harnessed in support of an evidence-based local and foreign policy.

We who have signed this manifesto will hold ourselves and each other accountable for putting these ideas into practice with responsibility and integrity. This is our commitment.

Over 150 world-class scientists, tech experts, public policy and foreign affairs professionals committed to Barcelona have already signed this manifesto. Check the full list and join them at: www.scitechdiplohub.org/manifesto