

Communiqué from the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) on the current situation in Ukraine

On 24 February 2022, military units of the Russian Federation entered Ukraine. IAP calls for peace in Ukraine and asks the scientific community to stand united in a call for dialogue.

IAP was highly shocked and dismayed about the military offensive of the Russian Federation into Ukraine.

If humanity is to attain the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN's 2030 Agenda and truly 'leave no one behind', science and technology must be mobilized around the globe. Already the COVID-19 pandemic has impeded countries in their quest to achieve the SDGs. Wars of any kind and in any location further disrupt the progress that was being made toward the SDGs on many fronts. There can never be any reason for choosing troops and weapons ahead of rational dialogue to overcome any conflict or challenge.

Any such military incursion also causes great humanitarian distress. As a global network of academies of science, medicine and engineering, we call on all military operations to refrain from targeting academic, research and educational establishments, and to ensure the protection of the valuable equipment, libraries and other collections that have been painstakingly acquired and curated over the years.

We have already seen the mass movement of people fleeing from the conflict. Among these people there are undoubtedly scientists, engineers, medical professionals and students undertaking higher degrees. We call on our academic colleagues to find spaces in their institutions to harness the expertise of such displaced scientists so that their work may

continue 'in exile' and continue to contribute to global knowledge. On this point, we draw attention to the resources listed on the [Science in Exile website](#) and the list of laboratories and institutes offering to help scientists forced to flee from Ukraine provided by the [Global Young Academy](#). Science is strongest – and best able to contribute towards achieving global goals – when researchers from all nations are able to communicate and collaborate with one another, so it is important that such displaced scientists (and their families) are provided with suitable opportunities.

We also note concern for those Russian scientists who have spoken out against their national leadership via an [open letter](#). We hope and expect that their courageous acts will not lead to any recriminations. They, too, are part of the global scientific community contributing towards the SDGs and other global and societal challenges.

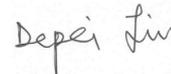
Finally, we encourage our member academies – indeed all people, everywhere, but especially scientists – to be aware of the misinformation and disinformation that is already circulating on social media and elsewhere during this conflict. As we have already seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, care should be taken to check facts and sources before unwittingly disseminating such false information that may lead to further mistrust and escalation of tensions.

**Signed by the members of the Steering Committee
of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) in March 2022**

Richard Catlow,
IAP President
and Co-chair, IAP-Policy



Depei Liu,
IAP President
and Co-chair, IAP-Health



Margaret Hamburg,
Co-chair, IAP-Health



Krishan Lal,
Co-chair, IAP-Science



Cherry Murray,
Co-chair, IAP-Science



Masresha Fetene,
Co-chair, IAP-Policy



About the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP)

Under the umbrella of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), more than 140 national, regional and global member academies work together to support the vital role of science in seeking evidence-based solutions to the world's most challenging problems. In particular, IAP harnesses the expertise of the world's scientific, medical and engineering leaders to advance sound policies, improve public health, promote excellence in science education, and achieve other critical development goals.

IAP's four regional networks - [AASSA](#), [EASAC](#), [IANAS](#), and [NASAC](#) - are responsible for managing and implementing many IAP-funded projects and help make IAP's work relevant around the world. For more information about IAP see www.interacademies.org and follow [@IAPartnership](#) on [Twitter](#), on [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).



This Communiqué can be downloaded at:

<https://www.interacademies.org/publication/iap-ukraine>.