

RESOLUTION
adopted at the Forum of the Ukrainian Research Diaspora
„Advancing Science through International Cooperation“
Kyiv, 20-22 October 2018

We, the participants of the first Forum of the Ukrainian Research Diaspora, organized to mark the 100th anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, after extensive discussions on a wide range of issues related to the current state and prospects of the development of science and higher education in Ukraine, presentation of research carried out by Ukrainian scientists working abroad and best-practice examples of successful joint research projects with scientists in Ukraine, state the following:

1. **Integration of Ukrainian science into the European and global research area** through fostering of international cooperation in general and by expanding collaboration with the research diaspora in particular **is of paramount importance** for increasing the research quality as well as modernization and reforming the science management system in Ukraine. This, in turn, is an **essential prerequisite for the development of a competitive innovation-driven economy**.
2. Over the past decades, the Ukrainian research diaspora has become an integral part of the global academic community and many of its members have a strong interest to engage with the scientific and higher educational sector in Ukraine. This is evidenced by the **participation in the Forum of 33 scientists from more than 10 countries, including professors from leading universities in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States**. Many active members of the Ukrainian research diaspora already collaborate with colleagues in Ukraine, and are **ready to share knowledge and expertise, to provide support and advice** in defining the priority directions for the development of science and innovation in Ukraine, as well as to participate in expert evaluations of research organizations, grant proposals, contribute to the development of effective formats to support science and innovation, etc.
3. **Ukraine has made the first steps towards reforming its science system**, namely: The National Council for Science and Technology Development has been established, the Scientific Committee of the Council has commenced its work, regulatory framework for the establishment of the National Research Foundation has been developed, new laws on science and on education have been adopted. However, the implementation of already adopted laws is far too slow. **We assess the current state of science in Ukraine as borderline critical, which poses a genuine threat to the national security of the country. It requires immediate and far reaching action by the legislative and executive powers in order to prevent further degradation of the country's science and technology. It is absolutely crucial to develop a long-term vision for the development of science and innovation in Ukraine, radically increase the basic level of support for research organizations**, as well as **undertake long overdue legislative changes**, in particular regarding the level of salaries, import of scientific equipment, etc. It has to be done not some time in the future, but right now.

We appeal personally to the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the National Council for Science and Technology Development of Ukraine, **Mr. Volodymyr Groysman**, and to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, **Mr. Andriy Parubiy**, to recognize **the priority of science in Ukraine** and to **respectively increase the funding of this key sphere** at least to the level already prescribed by national law. The National Council for Science and Technology Development must begin its work immediately. We are deeply convinced that **significant additional funds** aimed at scientific and innovative research should be provided to scientists on a competitive basis by the **National Research Fund of Ukraine, which should become the main independent distributor of such funds**. Grant competitions should adhere to standard practices of similar international organizations: expert peer review with the mandatory participation of international experts and be based on principles of scientific integrity.

The 21st century is the century of globalization. It not only poses challenges, but also opens up new opportunities. The progress of the Ukrainian society and the very future of our country depends on how fast and efficient we integrate into the world community and what priorities are chosen. 100 years ago, during tough times of war and external aggression, the founding fathers of our state were able to recognize the paramount importance of science for the newly proclaimed independent Ukraine. We are convinced that also now, with appropriate support, science will become the engine of the development of the Ukrainian economy, and will allow Ukraine to take a respected place among the innovative countries of the world.