

Science for Global Impact



Capacity-building workshop on navigating
the international science-policy interface

ETH zürich



LE
RU

EPFL





Workshop: engaging with the Geneva international policy eco-system

28 June 2022, 13:00-16:00 | IN PERSON

- Welcome
- Public Policy at UCL

Olivia Stevenson
Deputy Director, UCL Public Policy

- International policy engagement at UCL

Lucy Shackleton
Head of Policy & Partnerships
UCL European Institute

Welcome



Your facilitators



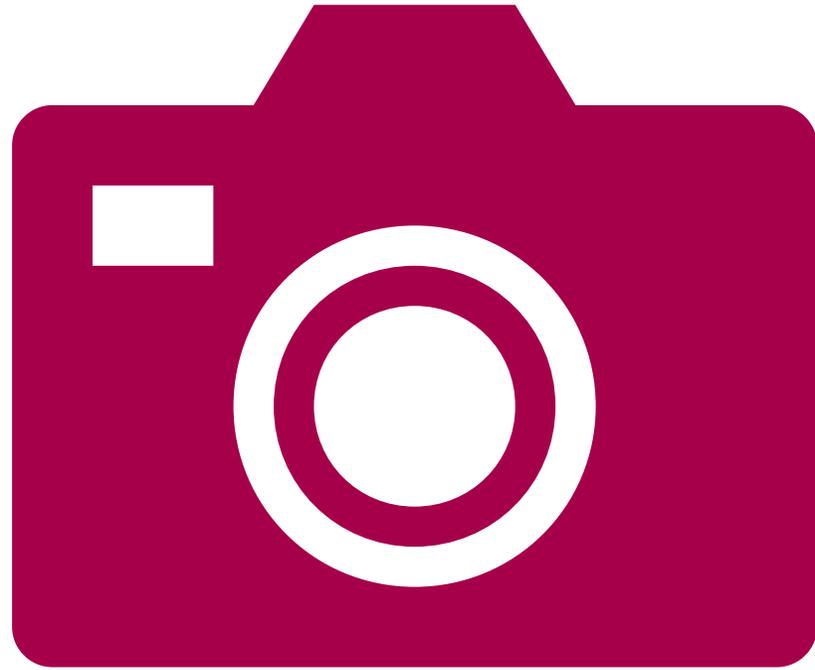
Maxime Stauffer
Senior Science-Policy Officer



Frédérique Guérin
Executive Officer



Nicolas Seidler
Executive Director





Pair up and introduce yourself

- include one truth, one lie (2x 2min)

Objectives for this workshop

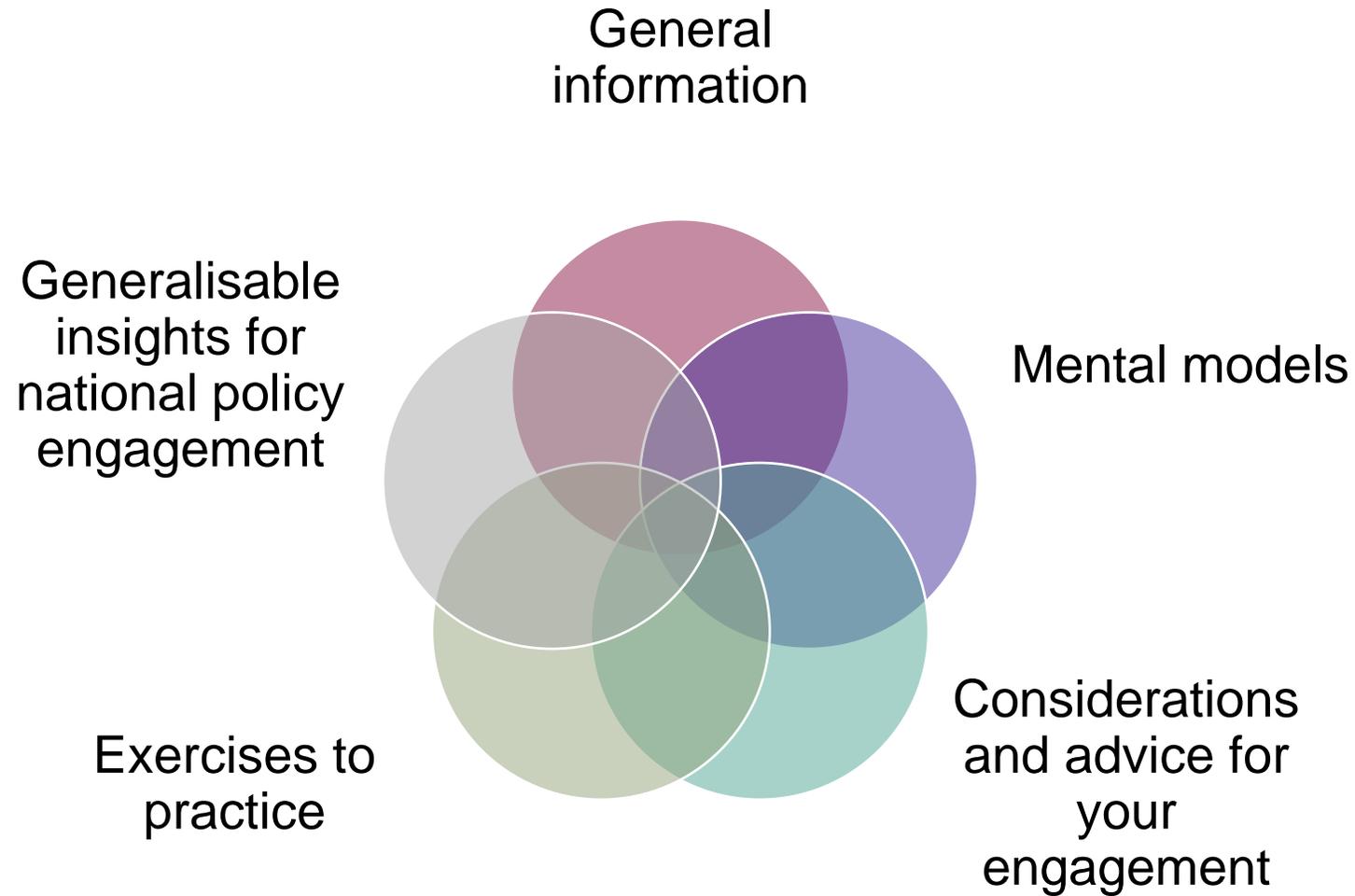


1. Understand the basics and value of multilateral policy and the role of science within it, with a specific focus on Geneva
2. Grasp the challenges and tactics to bridge science and multilateral policy
3. Plan a path forward for your own research and multilateral policy engagement



1. Unpacking multilateral policy and the role of science
2. Exercise 1: navigating the international science-policy interface
3. Science and policy: a messy relationship?
4. Break
5. Exercise 2: strategies to overcome science-policy challenges
6. Skills, resources and tactics for honest science-policy engagement
7. Exercise 3: the future of your research and policy engagement
8. Summary, feedback and checkout

Types of content



Prompt



WHY ASIMOV PUT THE THREE LAWS OF ROBOTICS IN THE ORDER HE DID:

POSSIBLE ORDERING

CONSEQUENCES

1. (1) DON'T HARM HUMANS
2. (2) OBEY ORDERS
3. (3) PROTECT YOURSELF

[SEE ASIMOV'S STORIES]

BALANCED
WORLD

1. (1) DON'T HARM HUMANS
2. (3) PROTECT YOURSELF
3. (2) OBEY ORDERS

EXPLORE MARS!

HAHA, NO. IT'S COLD AND I'D DIE.

FRUSTRATING
WORLD

1. (2) OBEY ORDERS
2. (1) DON'T HARM HUMANS
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KILLBOT
HELLSCAPE

1. (2) OBEY ORDERS
2. (3) PROTECT YOURSELF
3. (1) DON'T HARM HUMANS



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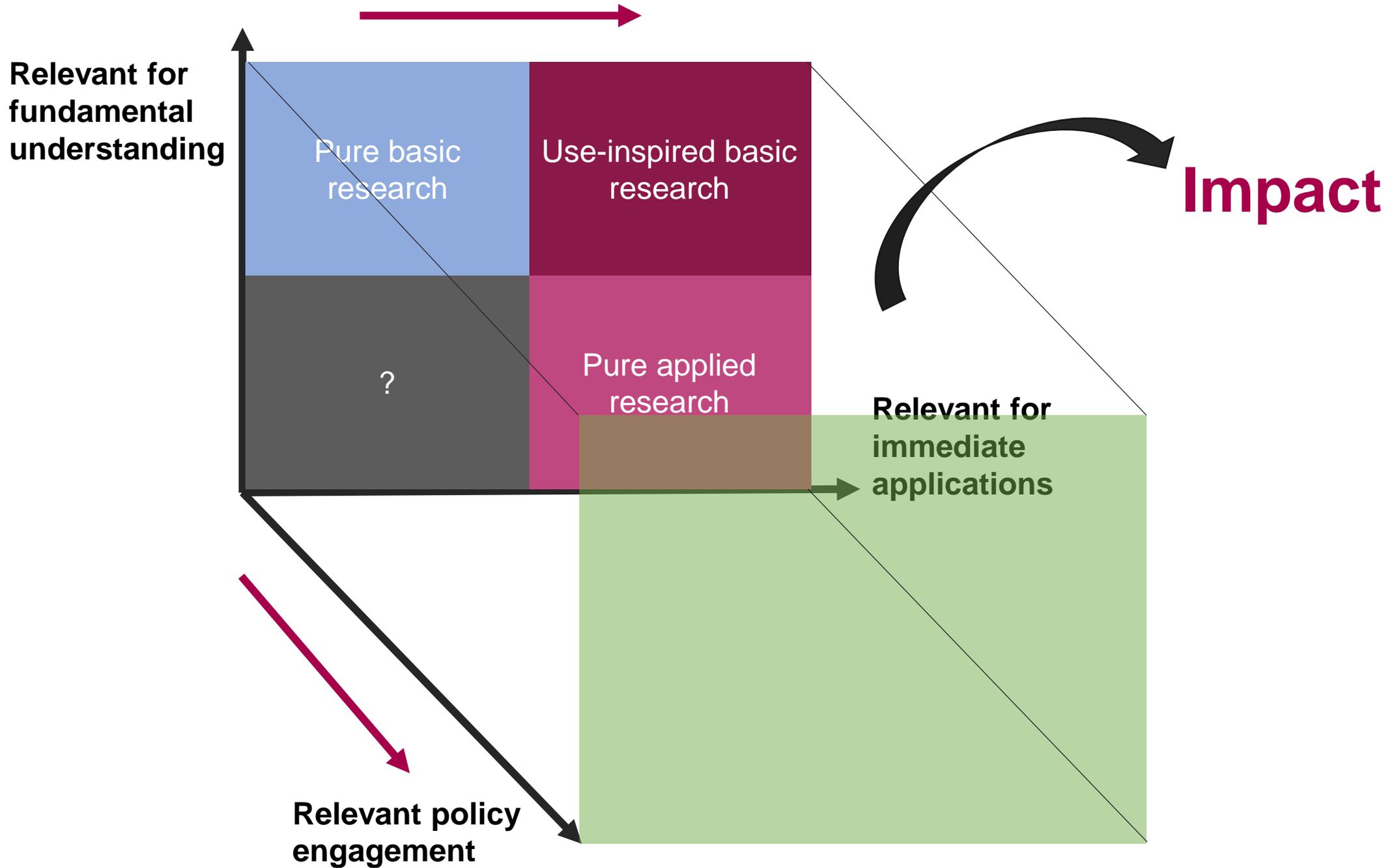
 I'LL MAKE CARS FOR YOU, BUT TRY TO UNPLUG ME AND I'LL VAPORIZE YOU.

TERRIFYING
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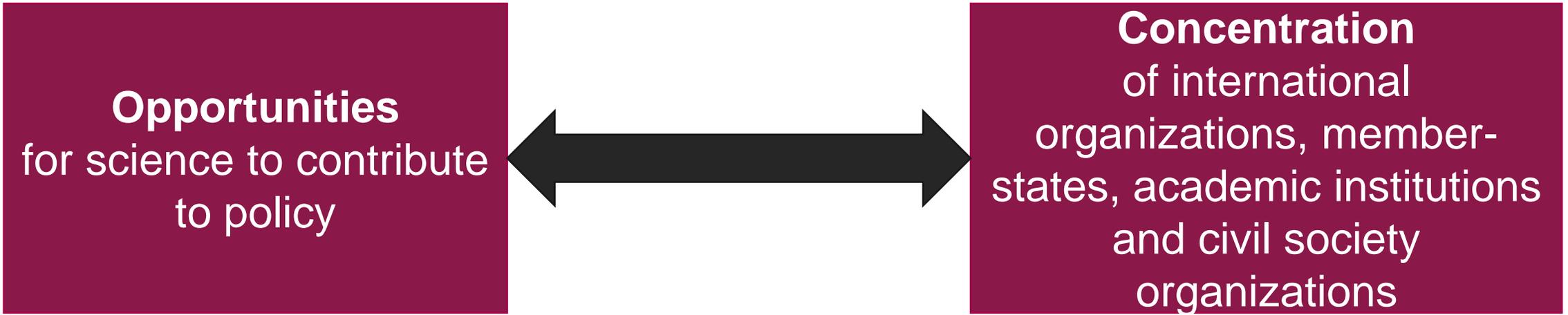


1. Unpacking multilateral policy and the role of science





The context first: International Geneva




4'600
 annual visits of heads of state and government, ministers and other dignitaries


3'236 meetings annually and
207'147 delegates from all around the world

What about New York?

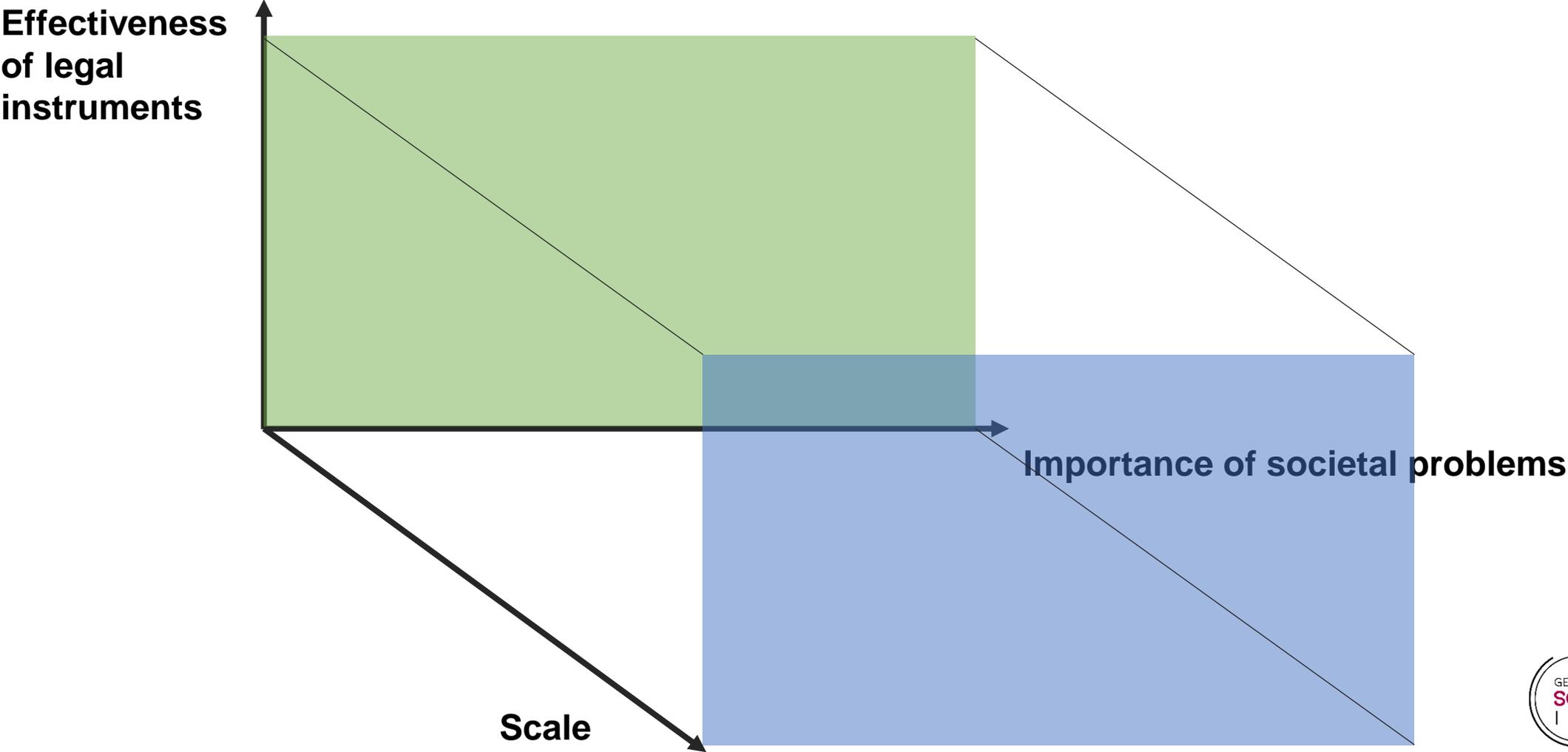

177
 States represented by a Permanent Mission


39
 International Organizations (IO)


432
 Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)



The value: Multilateralism



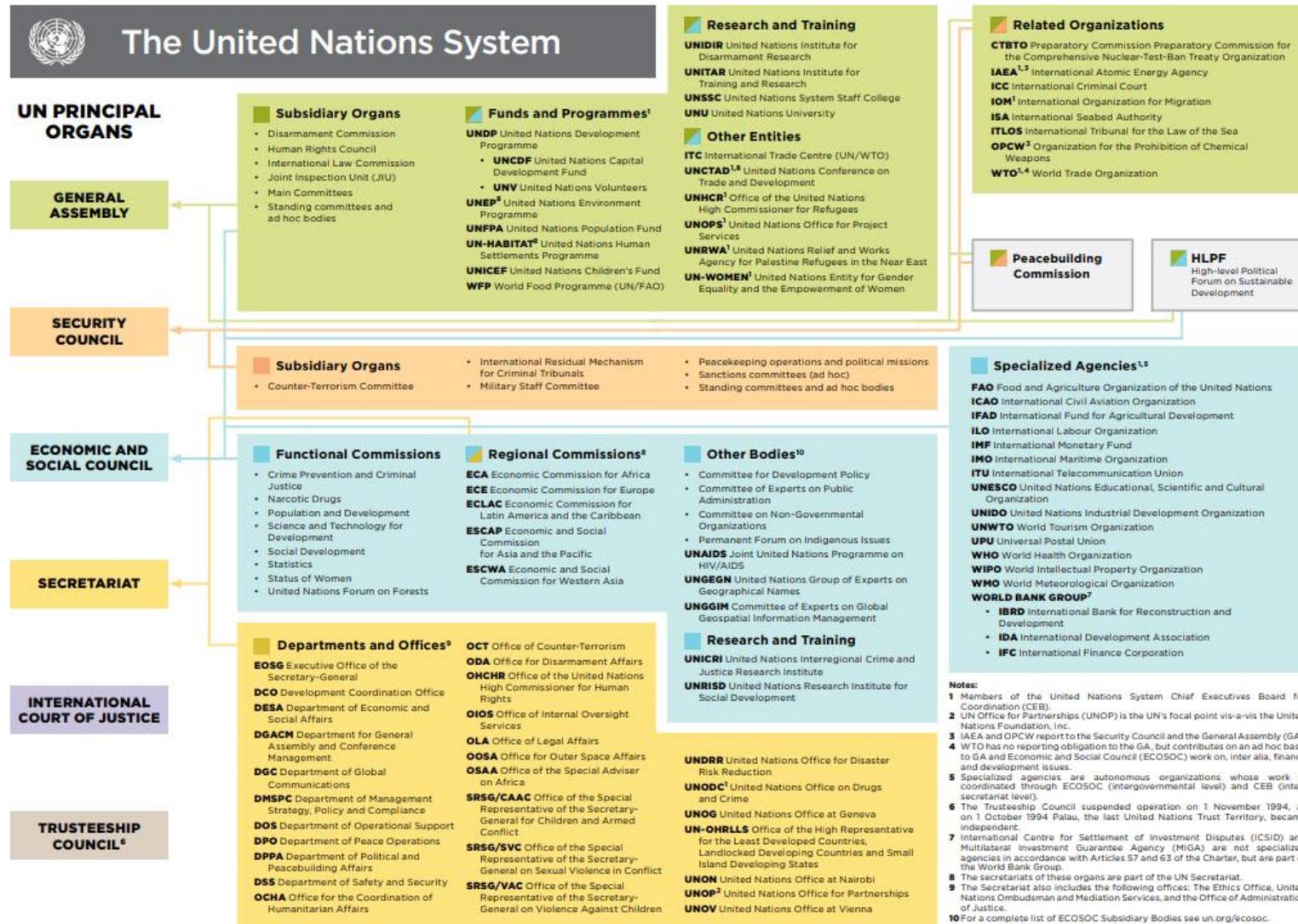
“The UN”
does not
exist.



1st UN: Member-states



2nd UN: Agencies, secretariats, funds and programmes



3rd UN: Civil society, NGOs, private sector and academia



Multilateral policy instruments



Operational processes

WHO guideline review committee
UNSTATS reports

Diplomatic processes

BWC meeting of state parties
UN General Assembly

Direction

Member-state driven
IO-driven

International treaties

- Paris Climate Agreement

Standards

- ISO/IEC 27001 on information security

Norms & guidelines

- WHO's four guidelines on anti-microbial resistance

Regulations

- International Health Regulations

Sanctions

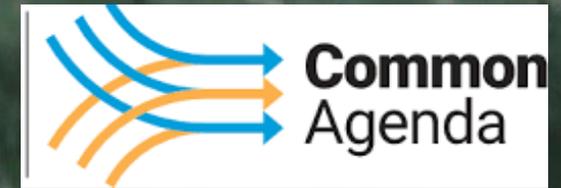
- UNSC Resolution 2231 (2015) on uranium mining for weaponization purposes

Agendas & narratives

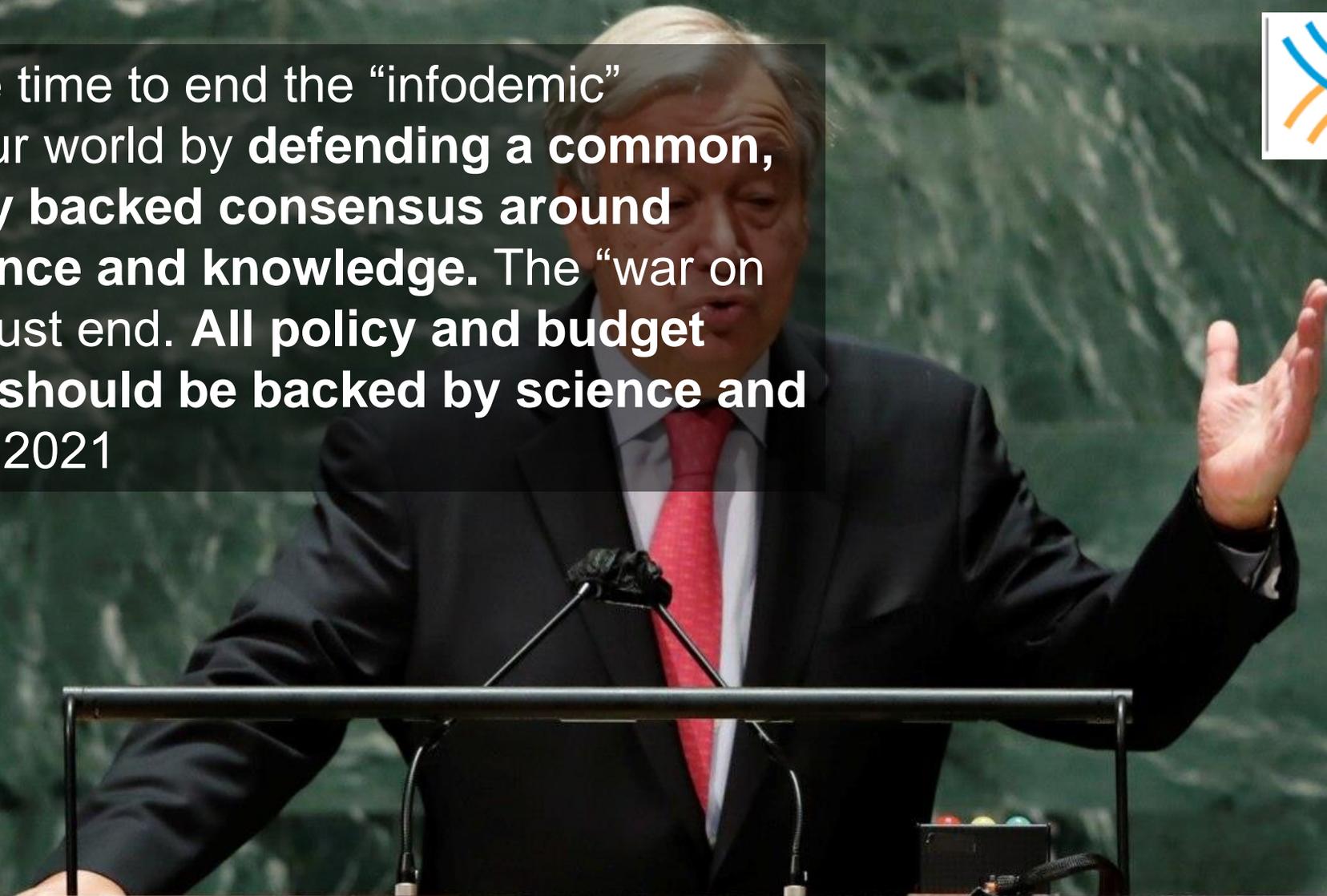
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- UN SG Our Common Agenda

Agendas and narratives as instruments

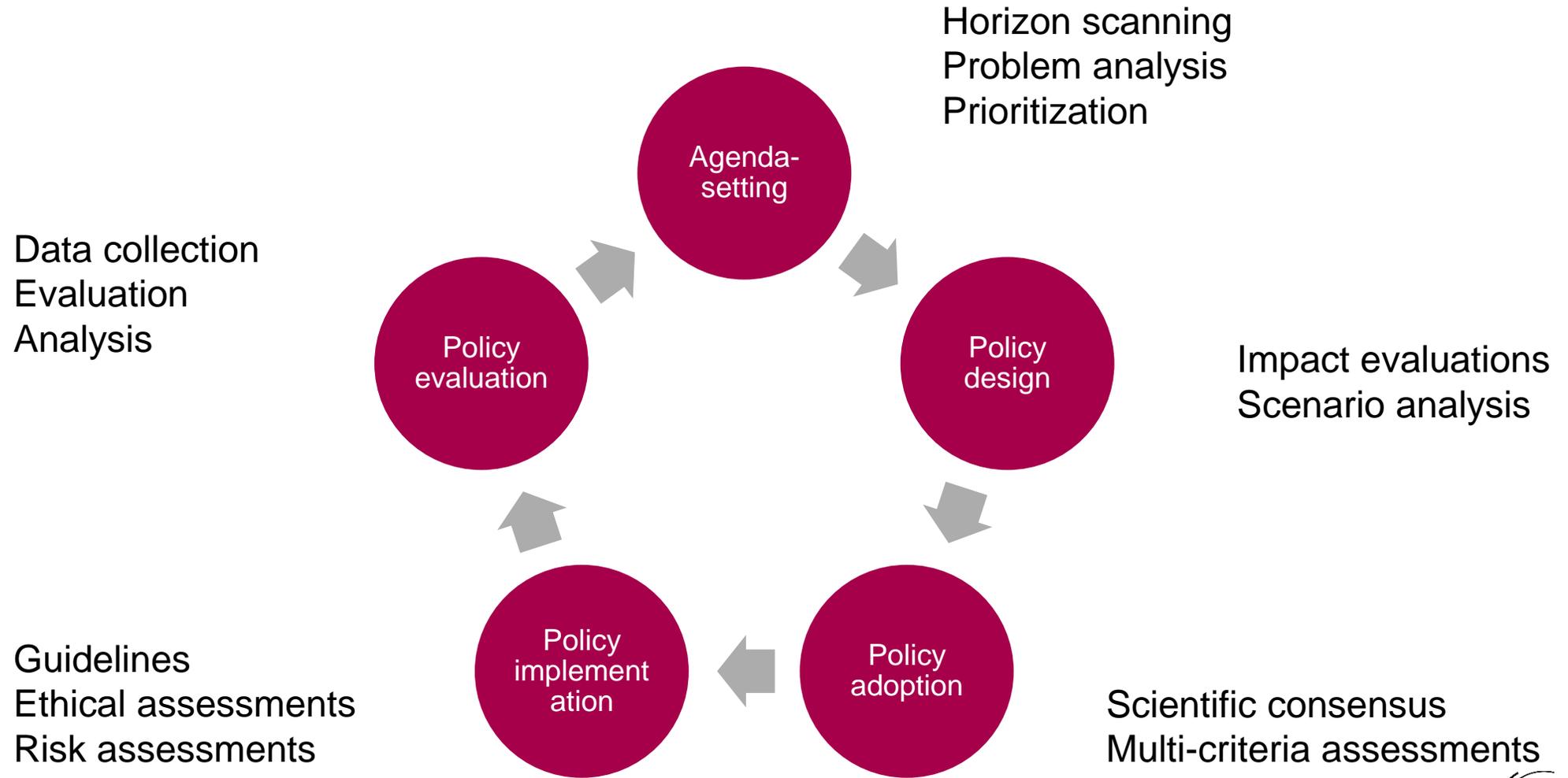




“Now is the time to end the “infodemic” plaguing our world by defending a common, empirically backed consensus around facts, science and knowledge. The “war on science” must end. All policy and budget decisions should be backed by science and expertise” 2021



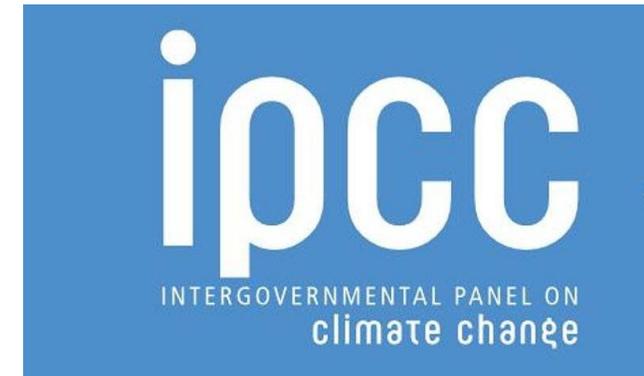
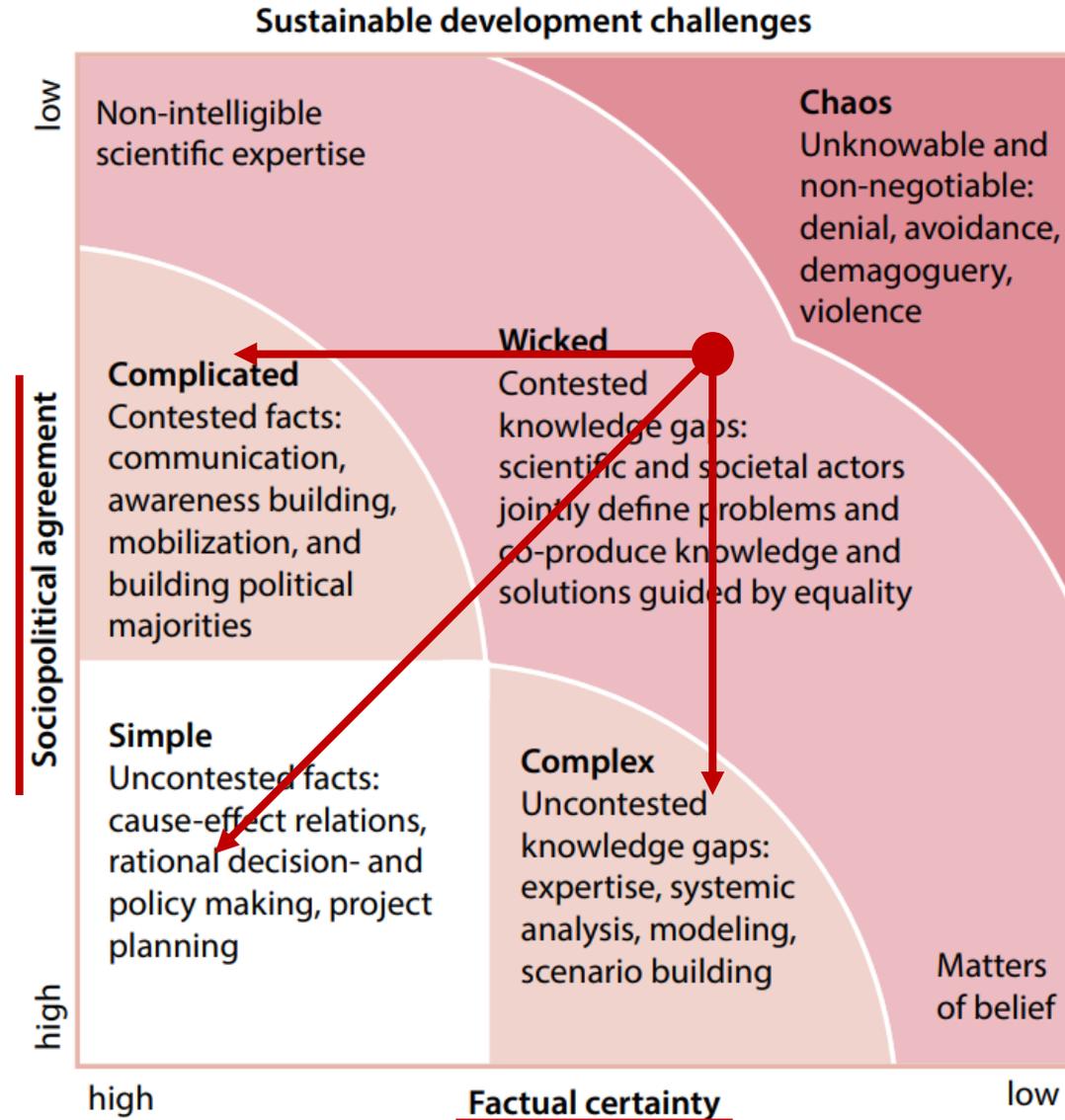
The role of science in the multilateral policy cycle



The role of science in handling global challenges



World Health Organization



Examples of processes that involve science



Scientific / technocratic institutions

- WHO
- IOM research
- IPCC
- UNIDIR

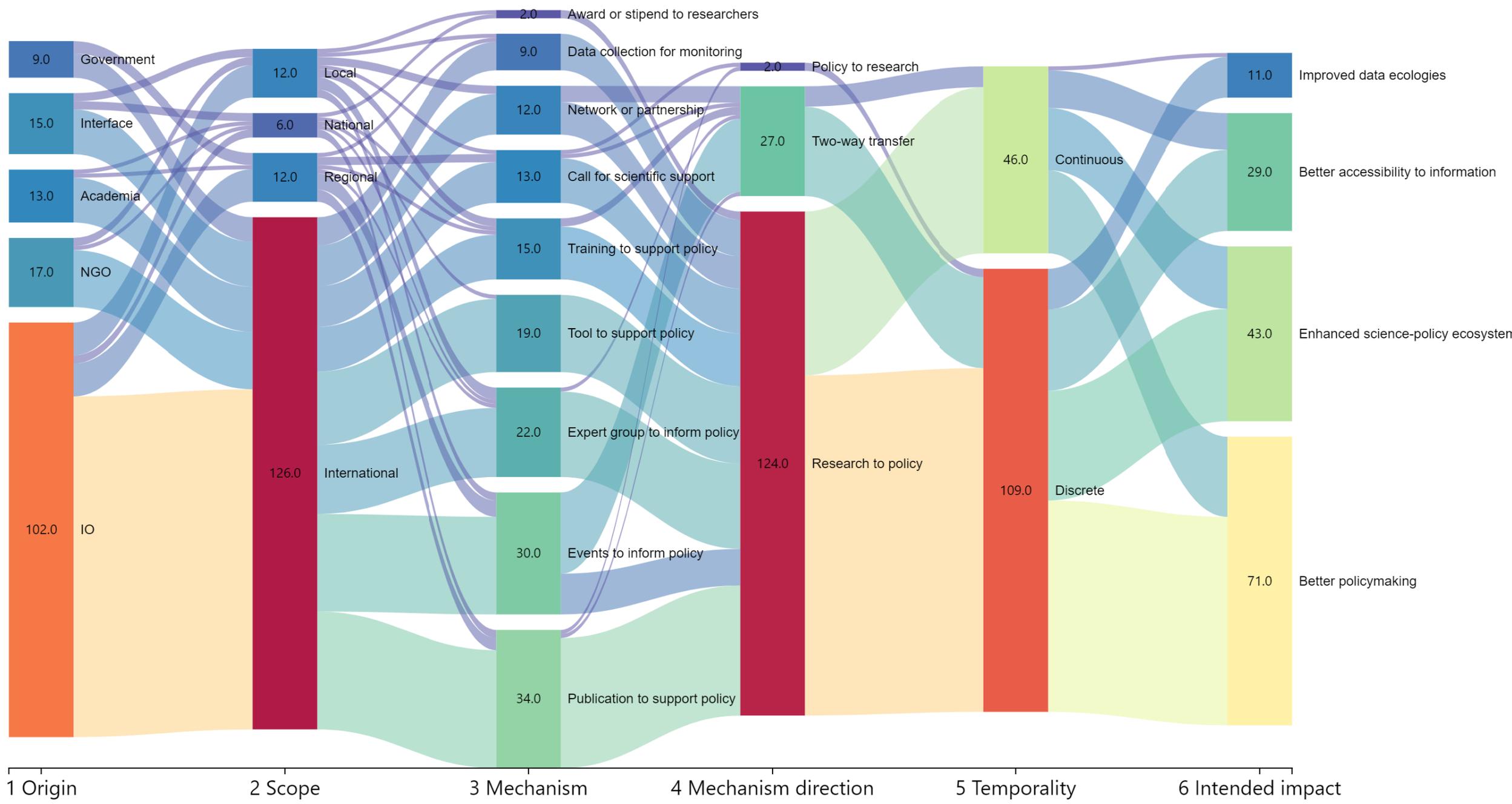
Committees

- E.g. S&T committees of BWC

Calls for input

- E.g. Global Digital Compact

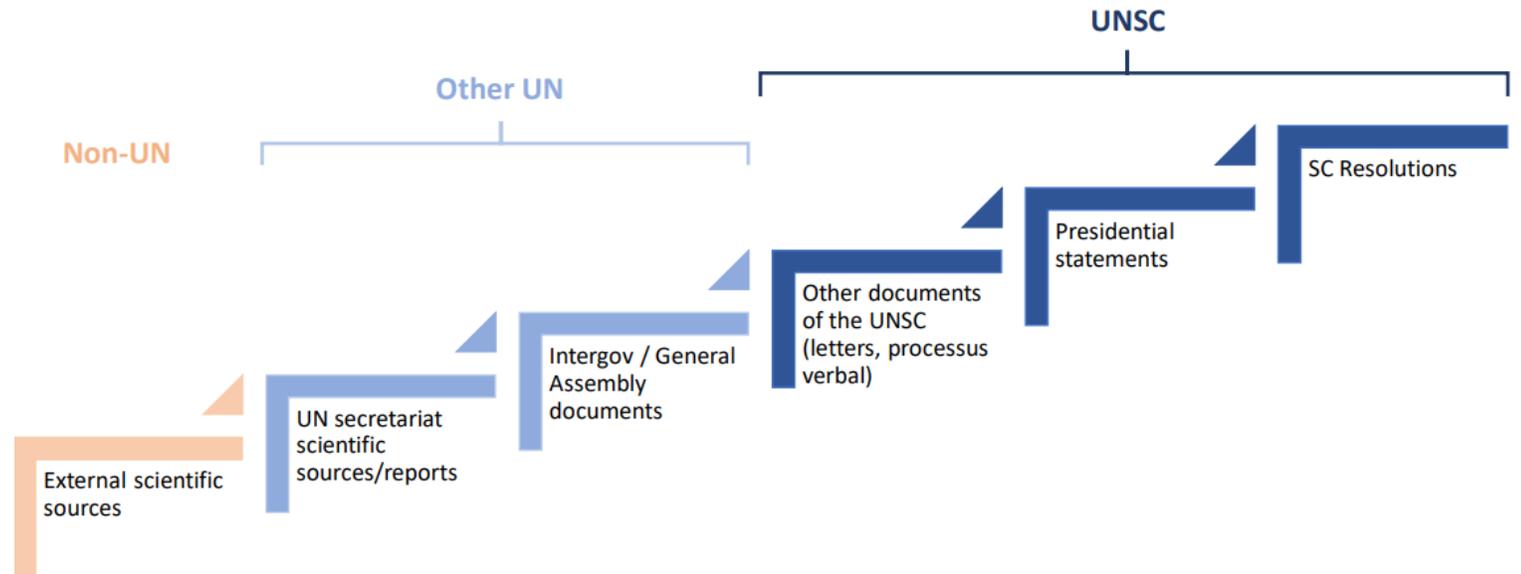
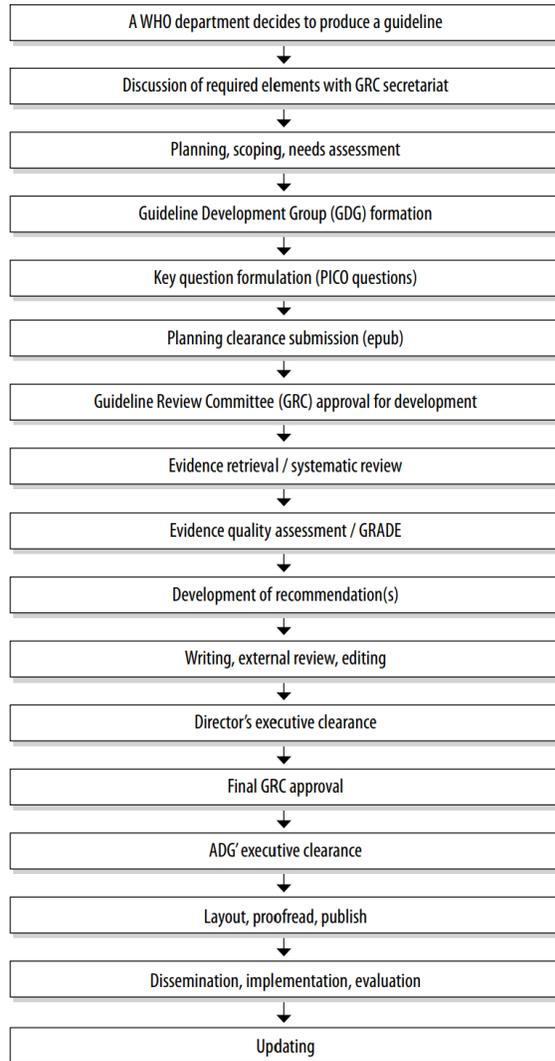
Organic, tacit, network-based



How is science used?



Figure 1.1 Overview of guidelines development process



Global impact by engaging in international Geneva



“High importance and best we have”

Much to leverage

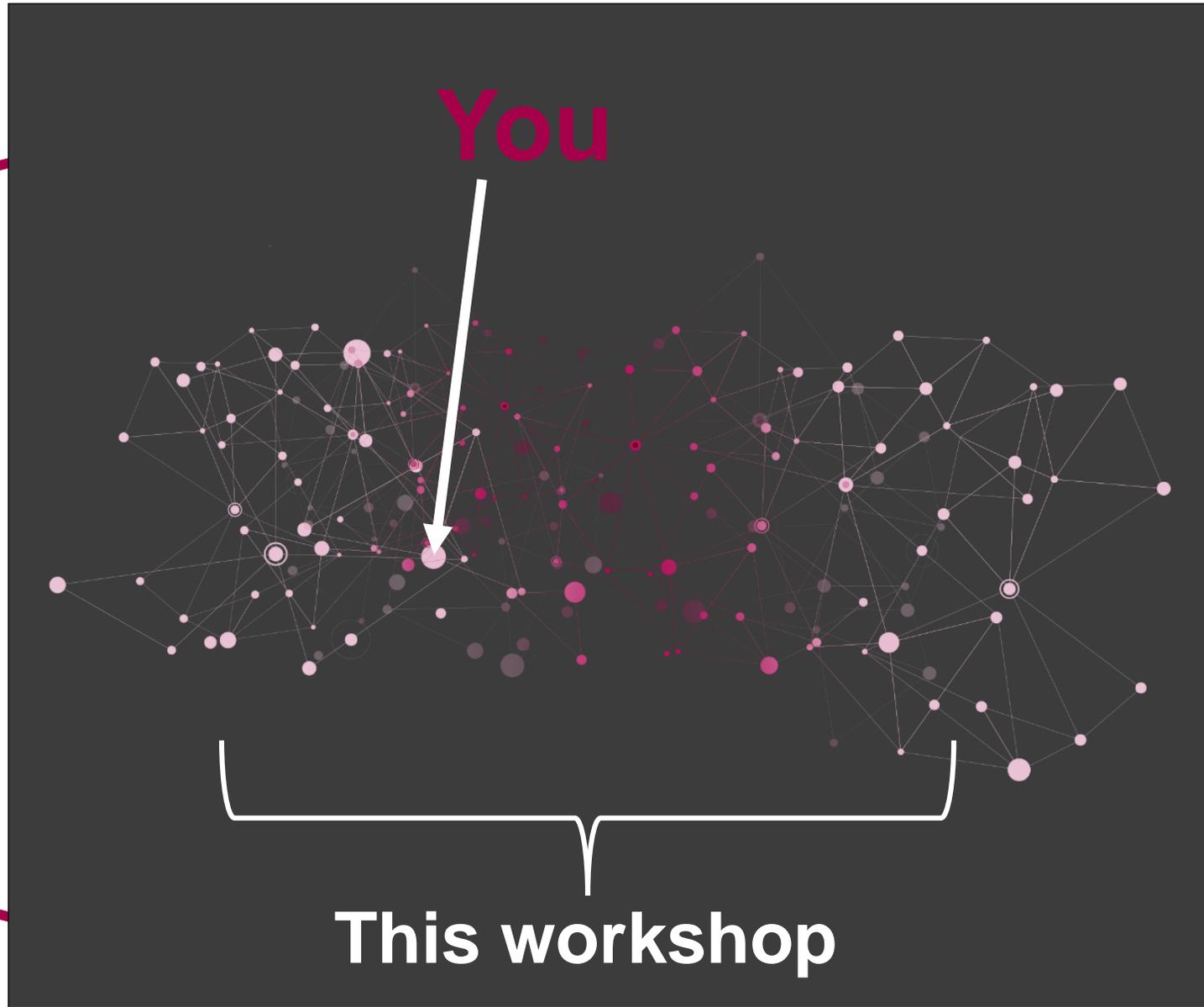
“Weak, young and fragile”

Much to improve

“Multilateralism is necessary”

Much to create

Science



You

Policy

This workshop

2. Exercise 1: Navigating the international science-policy interface



Exercise



Setting up a WHO task force



Giving climate policy advice

Exercise

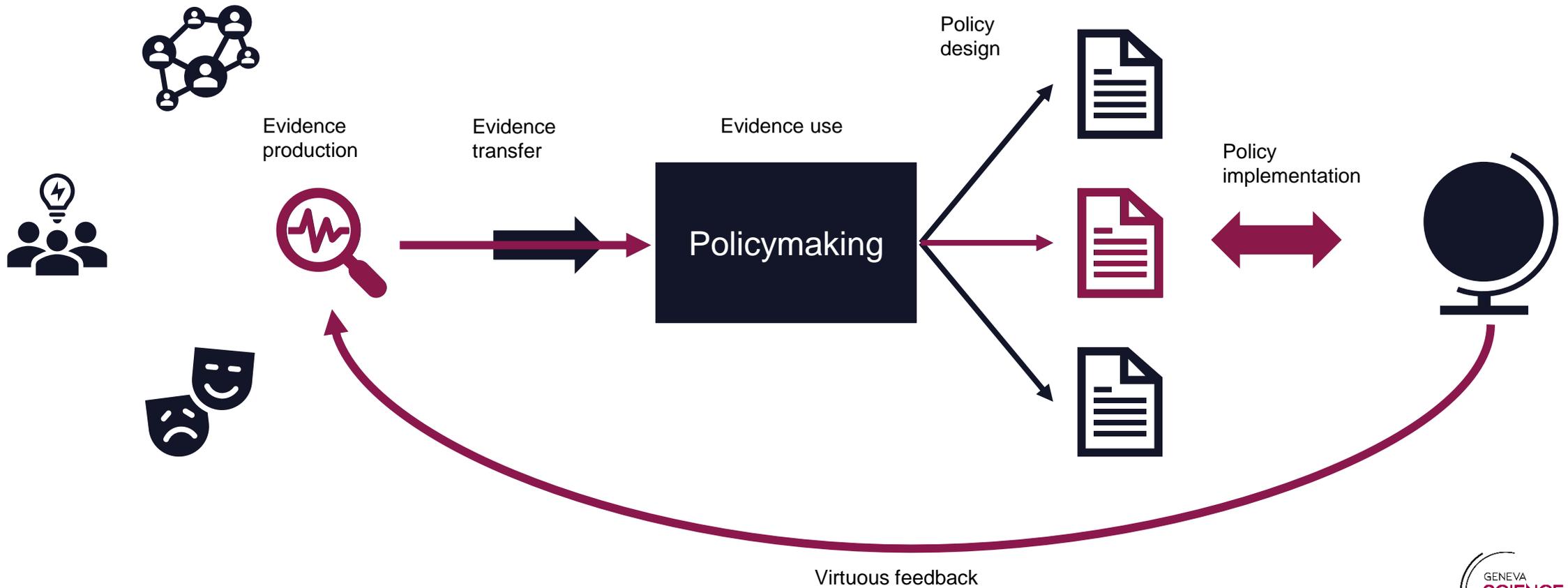


1. Read your role and answer questions on your own (5min)
2. Pair up and compare your reflections (8min)
3. Form quartets and compare your reflections (8min)
4. Plenary discussion (10min)

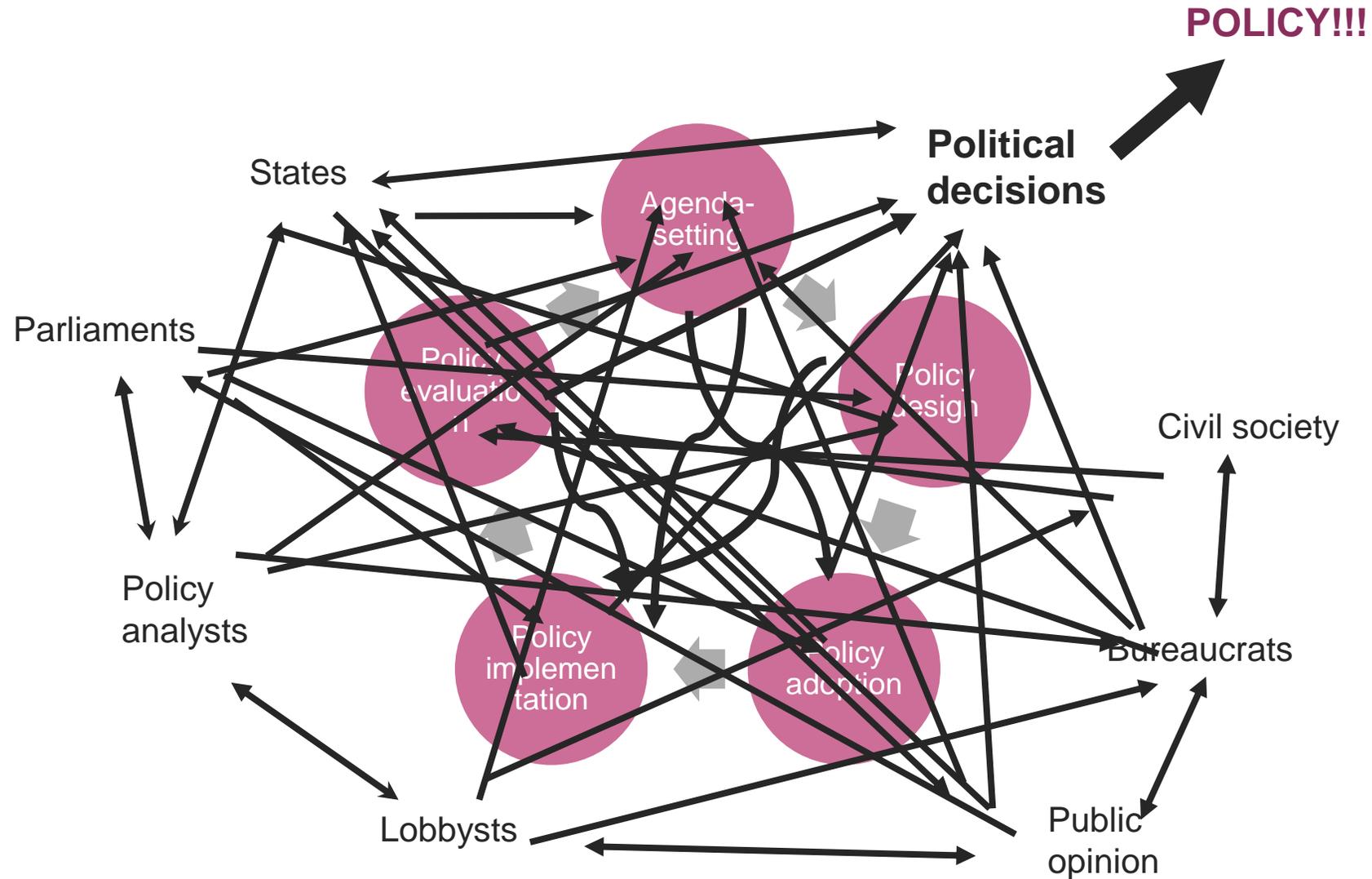
3. Science and policy: a messy relationship?



Science and policy: a fruitful relationship?



The reality of multilateral policy cycles



Evidence is used.

But with constraints.













Misfits at the international science-policy interface



In international policy contexts

Mis-alignment

Science and policy-making do not have the same objectives

Global scale requires generalizable knowledge

Mis-timing

Science and policy do not have the same timeframes

SDGs defined in 2015, review of frameworks half-way

Mis-communication

Science and policy speak different languages

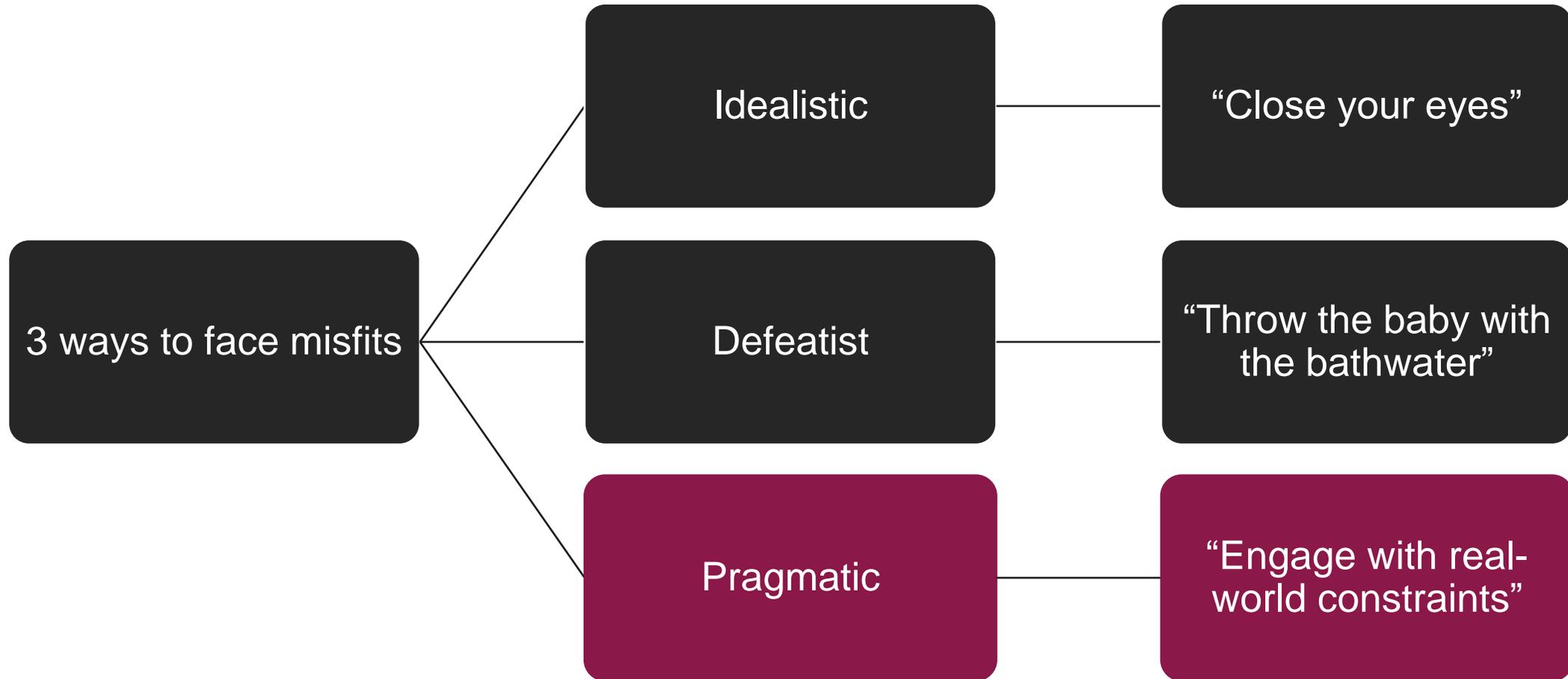
Strong UN culture of consensus

Mis-use

Science can be badly understood or instrumentalized

Information overload and ambiguity

Overcoming misfits



4. Break



5. Exercise 2: strategies to overcome science-policy challenges





Key question:

Since navigating the science-policy black box is difficult and requires to be pragmatic, what are useful engagement strategies **academics** may use to succeed?

1. Reflect on your own (3min)
2. Pair-up and compare and combine your reflections (5min)
3. Form quartets, find differences and similarities (do you agree, or disagree?) (10min)
4. Reflections in the plenary (10min)

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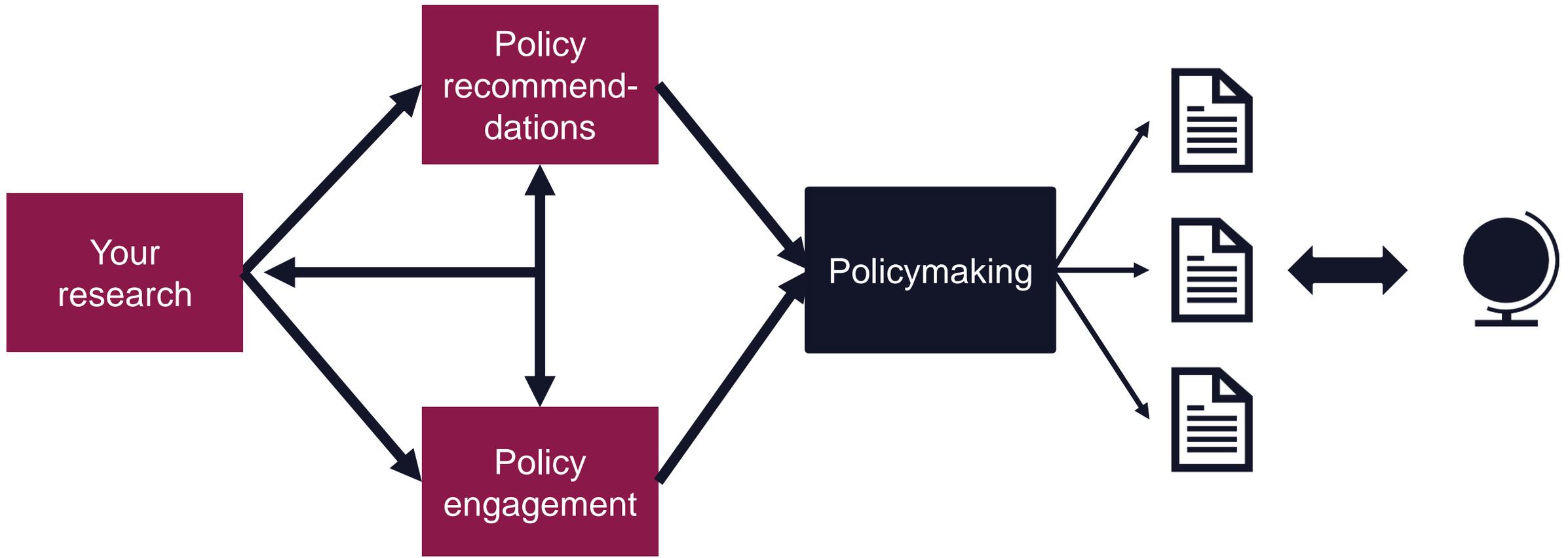
Information overload and ambiguity

6. Tactics and resources for honest science-policy engagement





Policy engagement and policy recommendations



Advice on academic international policy engagement



Do high quality research

Make your research relevant and readable

Understand policy processes

Be accessible to policymakers: engage routinely, flexible, and humbly

Decide if you want to be an issue advocate or honest broker

Build relationships with policymakers

Be 'entrepreneurial' or find intermediary actors

Reflect continuously: should you engage, do you want to, and is it working?



Do high quality research

- Generate the level of evidence required to support international decisions

Make your research relevant and readable

- Reverse engineer research questions based on international policy agendas
- Publish your research with an international policy audience in mind and in relevant outlets

Advice and implications for engaging in e.g. international Geneva



Understand policy processes

- Read on international policy processes and skim reports
- Listen to negotiations, consultations or events

Be accessible to policymakers: engage routinely, flexible, and humbly

- Make it possible to find you online using international policy keywords
- Come to Geneva
- Respond to calls for experts
- Provide what policy actors ask for

Build relationships with policymakers

- Come to Geneva
- Conduct interviews with international civil servants and/or diplomats
- Attend events as participants or speakers in international policy fora
- Increase serendipity

Advice and implications for engaging in e.g. international Geneva



Decide if you want to be an issue advocate or honest broker

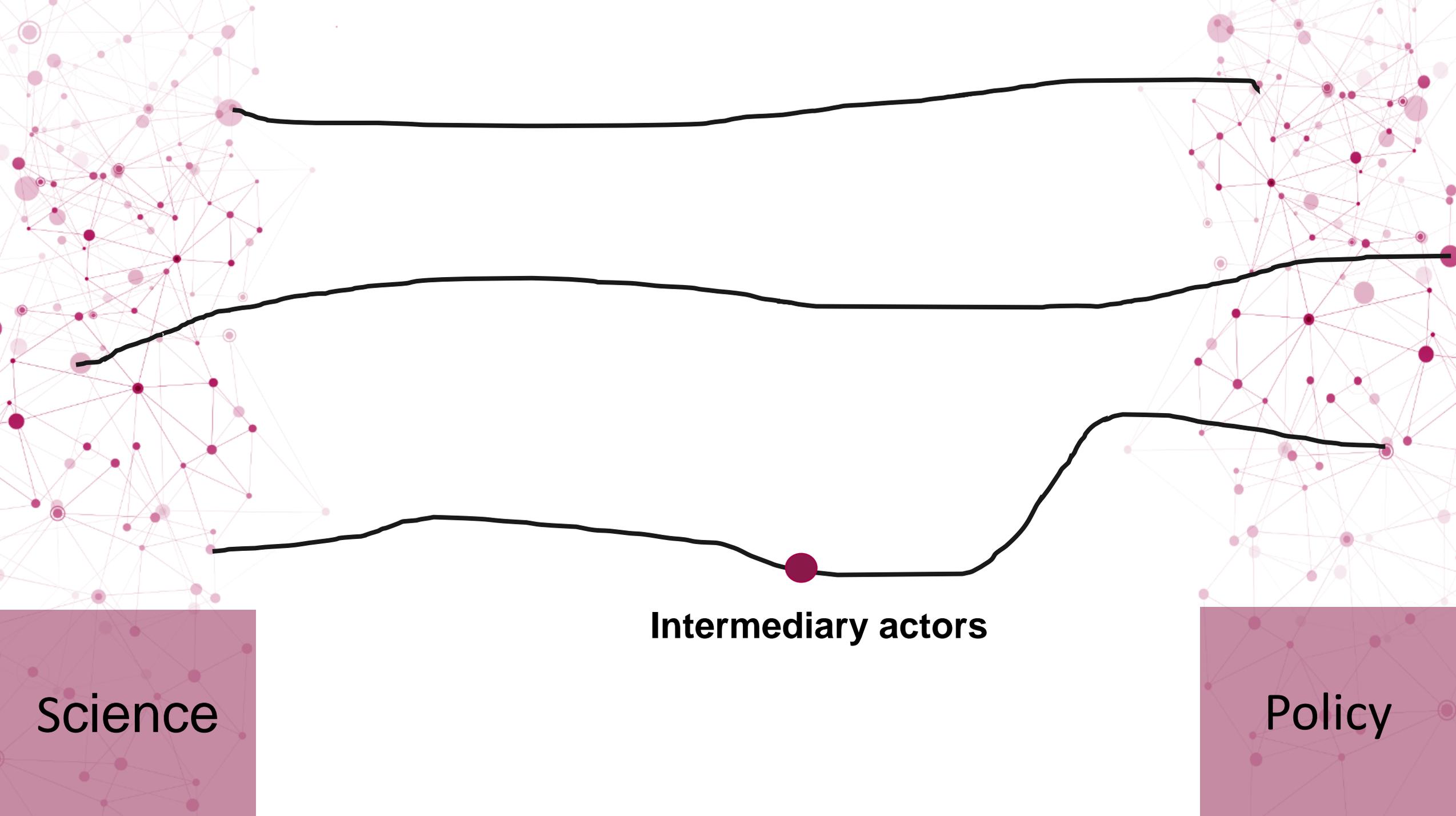
- Assess whether your research sheds light on neglected policy problems in the international policy system (e.g. not in SDGs)
- Assess whether your research helps develop policy solutions to prioritized problems

Be 'entrepreneurial' or find intermediary actors

- Gather intelligence on international policy processes
- Anticipate windows of opportunity and reverse engineer your strategies
- Work with existing actors who matchmake or synthesize research

Reflect continuously: should you engage, do you want to, and is it working?

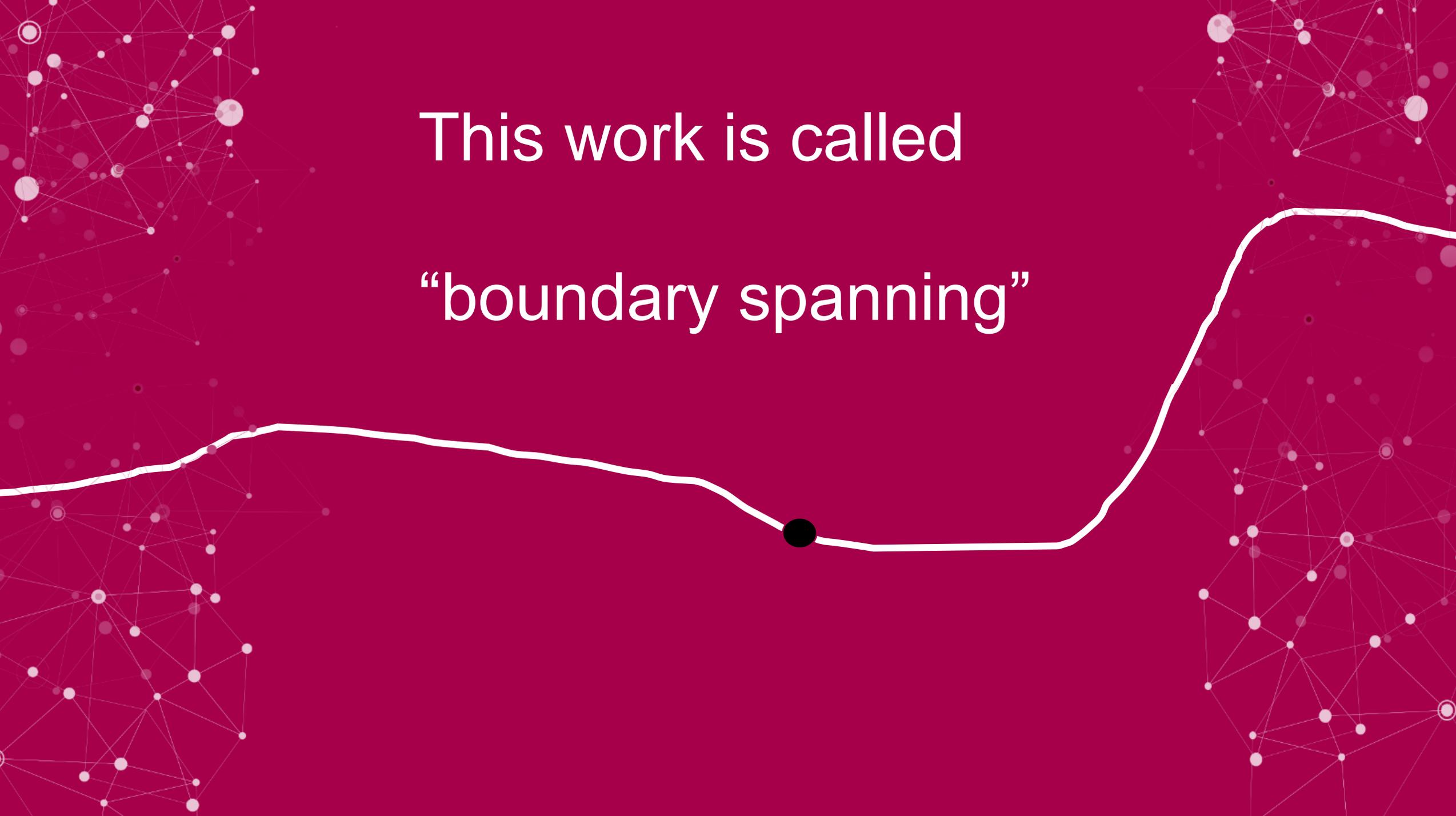
- Talk to us and your public policy and engagement offices
- Talk to your peers about your engagement and how you can do better



Science

Intermediary actors

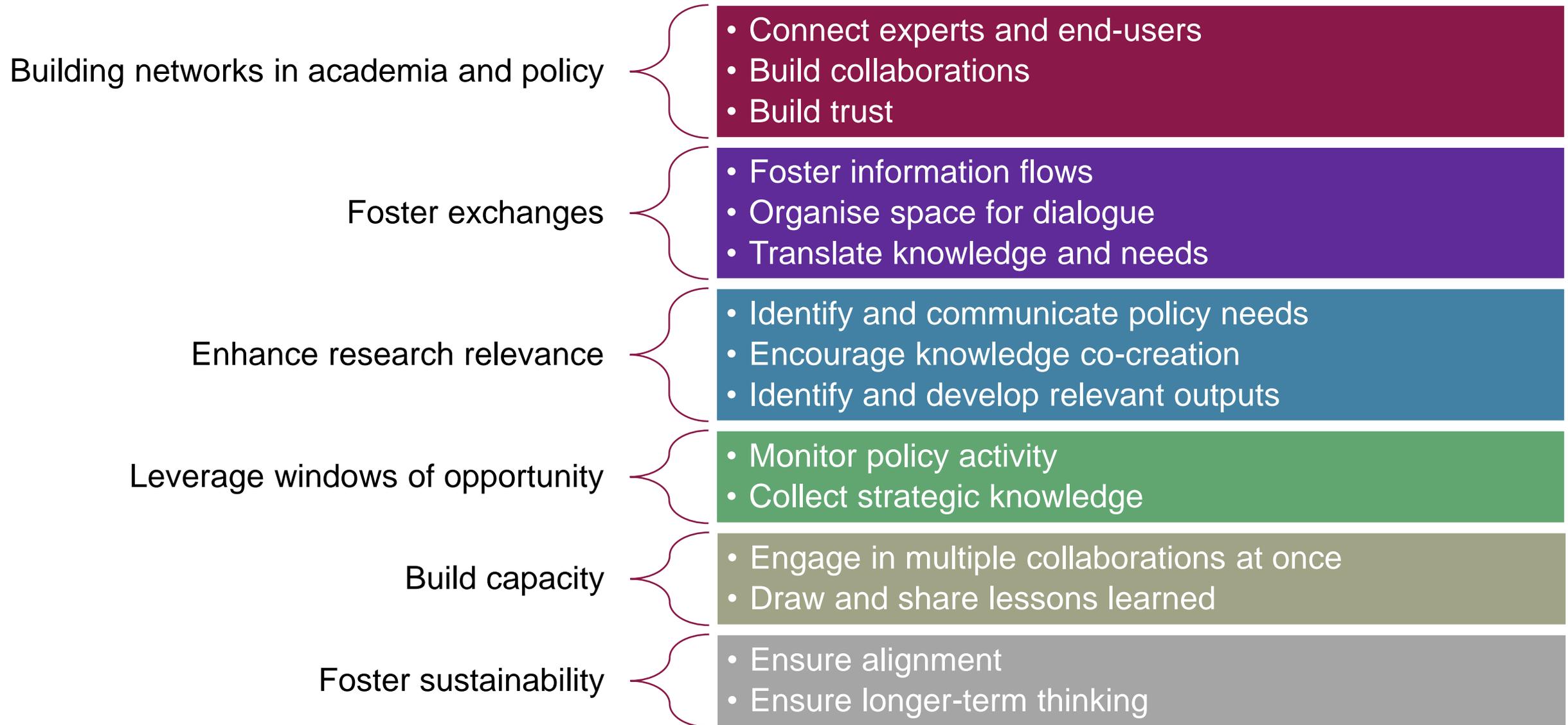
Policy

The image features a dark red background with a network of white nodes and edges. A thick white line traces a path across the network, starting from the left, moving right, then down, then right again, and finally up and right. A solid black circle is placed at the junction where the path turns downwards. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

This work is called

“boundary spanning”

What do intermediaries do?



How to find intermediaries?



International Geneva platforms

- Peace Building Platform
- Global Health Platform
- Internet Platform
- Human Rights Platform
- SDG Lab
- Water Hub
- Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
- Geneva Environment Network
- Platform on Disaster Displacement
- Green Growth Knowledge Partnership
- Geneva Cities Hub
- Trade Platform

Secretariats of international organizations

Visit: <https://www.geneve-int.ch/>

How to find intermediaries?





Impact Collaboration Programme – gspi.ch/icp

- Support science-policy projects
- 40,000 CHF
- 12 months
- Strategic support

Knowledge brokering – gspi.ch/kb

- Resources
- Guidance

Ad hoc support – reach out to us!



Sources of support at UCL

Faculty-based knowledge exchange roles

UCL Public Policy

- **Connects researchers and policy professionals:** secondments, placements, brokering introductions
- **Translates research into public policy-focused outputs:** Select Committee submissions, evidence summaries, policy briefs
- **Draws together public policy-related activity at UCL:** roundtables, podcasts, seminars
- **Capacity building and training for academic-policy engagement:** Masterclass series, bespoke training, Handbook and templates

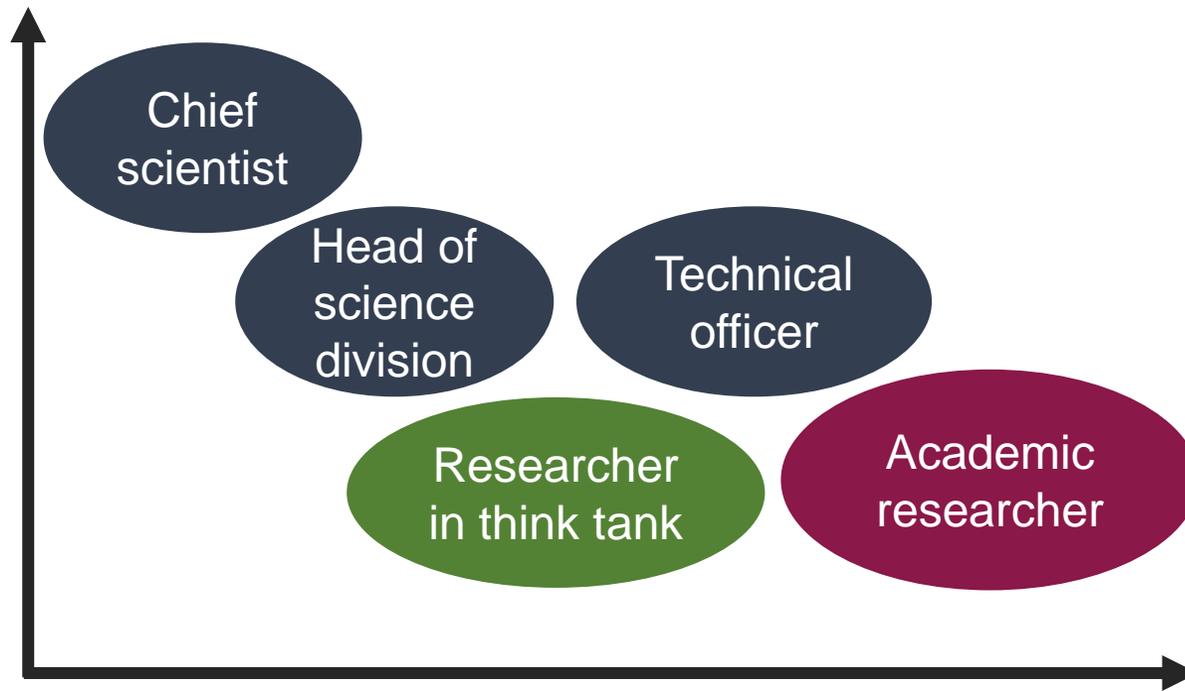
Supporting international policy engagement at UCL – Global Engagement, the European Institute, Public Policy

- Ongoing project to map, surface and showcase existing activity (case study bank; contacts database)
- Pilot training and networking opportunities
- Develop recommendations for sustainable resourcing

Changing your research career?



Impact on policy through strategy and advice



Amount of independent research

7. Exercise 3: the future of your research and policy engagement



Exercise 2: Your engagement strategy moving forward set moving forward (30min)



Key questions:

1. What is your current or future international policy engagement context?
2. What can you currently capitalise on and what can you do differently?
3. What can you learn from others?

1. Reflect on your own using our template (map your context, profile and gaps) (10min)
2. Pair up and compare/question your respective plans (10min)
3. Refine on your own or together to refine your plan (10min)
4. Plenary: impressions

Your current position



To-dos to improve your engagement



Your future position



Your international policy engagement context

What is your expertise?

What engagement-relevant skills do you have?

What resources do you have (networks, time, etc.)?

To-dos for you and your team(s):

To-dos for your institution:

Which research should you do?

Which skills do you need?

Which networks do you need?

Which parts of your research are relevant?

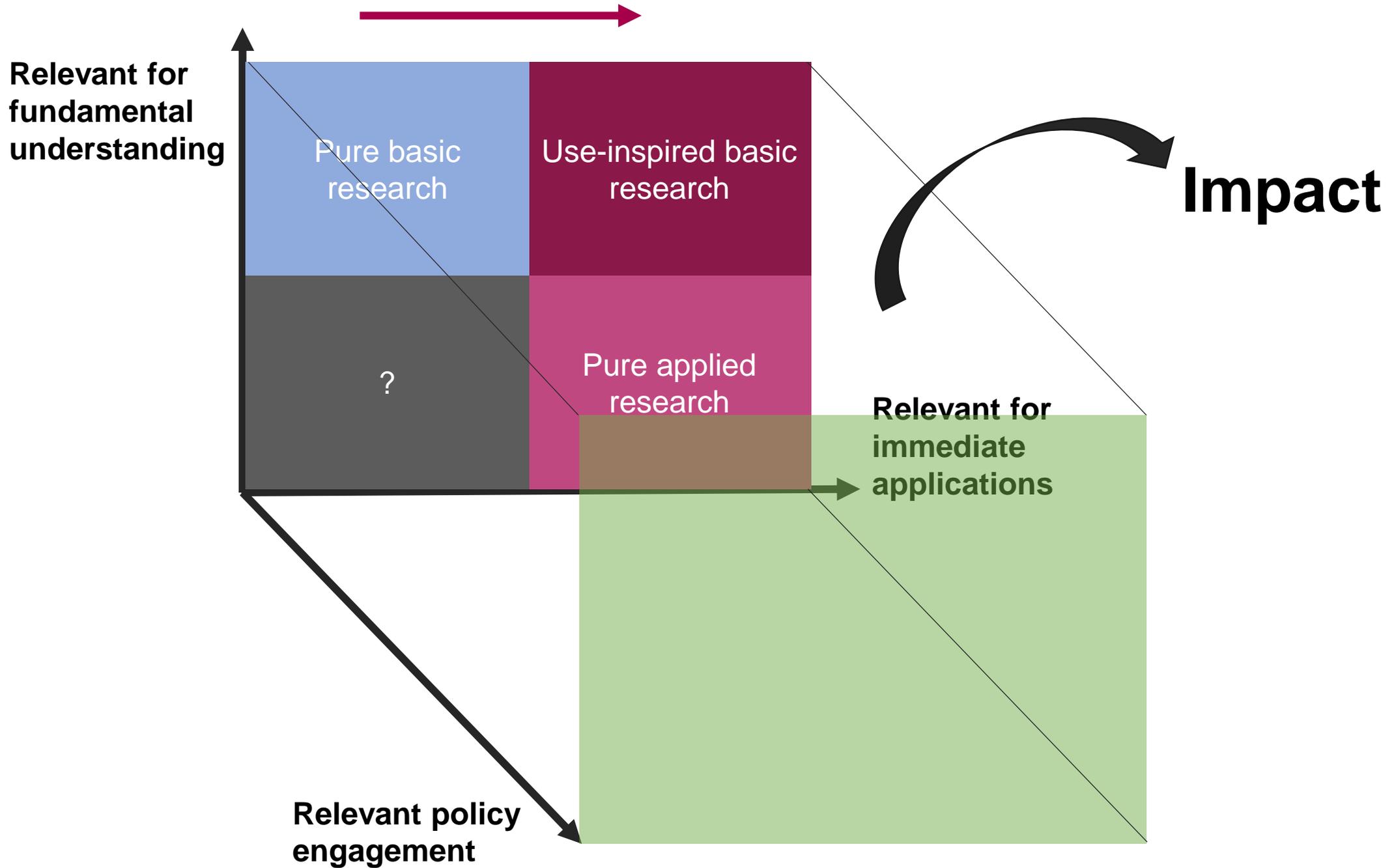
Which parts of multilateralism?

Which challenges and misfits to overcome?

What are the relevant actors?

8. Summary and checkout





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POSSIBLE ORDERING

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[SEE ASIMOV'S STORIES]

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KILLBOT
HELLSCAPE

Before you leave, we are interested in your feedback!

<https://tinyurl.com/3ku95zev>



Thank you

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cristina.agrigoroae@unige.ch

