

São Paulo Framework of Innovation Diplomacy

Definition

Innovation Diplomacy is the set of ideas, principles, visions, strategies and practices that lies at the intersection of innovation and foreign policy. As such, it is the component of national and subnational strategies that employs diplomatic tools and processes to enhance innovation capabilities, including research and development (R&D), technological entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, high technology production and trade, risk funding and qualified human capital. Furthermore, Innovation Diplomacy consists of bilateral, regional, interregional as well as multilateral engagements that aim at promoting cooperation for common benefit. It thus conceives internationally valid frameworks and fora in the domain of responsible innovation policies to attain sustainable development goals.

Innovation Diplomacy relies on strong and respectful international working relationships among governments, industries, academia and civil society.

Practices

Innovation Diplomacy comprises strategic practices in subnational and national domains, and cooperative practices in regional and global realms.

Subnational and national strategic dimension

1. Facilitate international market access for national tech industries and technologies
2. Assist access to foreign technological innovations to address social, economic and environmental challenges
3. Attract R&D intensive foreign direct investment (FDI)
4. Negotiate and promote international technology transfer (ITT)
5. Mobilize Science, Technology & Innovation (ST&I) diasporas to address national and subnational needs
6. Link subnational and national innovation ecosystems to international counterparts
7. Identify foreign innovation strategies and best practices in order to improve national and subnational policies

Regional and global cooperative dimension

1. Define common legal frameworks and mechanisms on the regional and global levels to promote innovation
2. Foster stakeholder participation in international innovation networks, both regionally and globally
3. Promote bilateral, regional, interregional and multilateral cooperative programs for innovation
4. Create, enhance and support international innovation databases, reports, assessments, comparative studies and rankings
5. Foster innovative solutions for the management of global public goods
6. Promote and facilitate international mobility of researchers and technical personnel
7. Take part in and advance the international intellectual property regime
8. Embrace and encourage global value chain innovation