



Science Diplomacy in Practice

Contributions of Swiss Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Africa

17 August 2026 · University of Bern

UniS, Schanzenekstrasse 1, 3012 Bern — [View map](#)
Room S 003 and Foyer

Event Booklet

Official Program

09:30 – 10:00	Arrival & Registration
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome Words Prof. Dr. Andrew Chan, Vice-Rector for International and Academic Careers, University of Bern Ambassador Philipp Stalder, Head of Sub-Saharan Africa and Francophonie Division AFD, State Secretariat STS, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs <i>Introduced by Prof. Jürg Utzinger, Director of Swiss TPH</i>
10:10 – 10:25	Keynote: Science Diplomacy in Africa: Why Regional Organizations Matter in Resource-Limited Settings Dr. Ntuli Kapologwe, Director General, East Central and Southern Africa Health Community Abstract: Science diplomacy has emerged as a critical instrument for addressing transboundary challenges, advancing international scientific collaboration, and strengthening evidence-informed policymaking. In Africa, however, limited financial resources, uneven research capacity, fragmented national science systems, and disparities in scientific infrastructure constrain the ability of individual countries to engage effectively in global scientific and diplomatic processes. Regional organizations provide an essential mechanism for overcoming these structural limitations by pooling expertise, coordinating policies, mobilizing resources, facilitating cross-border research collaboration, and amplifying Africa's collective voice in international science and technology governance.

	Drawing on experiences from the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), the West African Health Organization (WAHO), and other African regional science, technology and innovation (STI) initiatives, this paper examines how regional cooperation strengthens scientific collaboration, institutional capacity, knowledge exchange, innovation ecosystems, and policy harmonization across member states. Particular attention is given to ECSA-HC's role in advancing regional health research, health workforce development through its network of Colleges of Health Sciences, disease surveillance, health security, digital health, implementation science, and evidence translation into policy. The paper further highlights the contribution of regional organizations in addressing complex challenges, including pandemic preparedness and response, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable food systems, antimicrobial resistance, and emerging technologies, while enhancing Africa's collective influence in global science and technology negotiations. The analysis also acknowledges persistent challenges, including uneven institutional capacity across member states, dependence on external financing, overlapping regional mandates, limited domestic investment in research and innovation, and varying levels of political commitment. Nevertheless, regional organizations offer cost-effective governance mechanisms that generate economies of scale, strengthen regional solidarity, and enable coordinated responses that are often beyond the capacity of individual countries. The paper concludes that strengthening regional organizations such as ECSA-HC is fundamental to advancing science diplomacy in Africa and accelerating implementation of the African Union's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2034). As a regional health intergovernmental organization, ECSA-HC demonstrates how sustained investment in regional scientific networks, collaborative research, capacity development, and policy dialogue can translate scientific evidence into collective action and improved health outcomes across borders. Investing in regional science diplomacy institutions should therefore be recognized not only as a development imperative but also as a strategic pathway for advancing sustainable development, strengthening regional integration, improving health security, and positioning Africa as a more influential and coordinated actor in global science governance.
10:25 – 10:35	Mapping of Academic Collaborations and Exchange between African Countries and the Swiss Academic Landscape Prof. Pia Stalder, Professor for Responsible Global and Intercultural Management, UNESCO Chair, Bern University of Applied Sciences Dr. Djouroukoro Diallo, Head and Coordination, Initiative Afrique, University of Bern <i>Abstract:</i> This presentation offers an exploratory landscape analysis of Swiss education, research and innovation partnerships with institutions across Africa. Mapping Swiss universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education and UNESCO Chairs reveals broad engagement, ranging from academic mobility and research projects to dedicated initiatives for academic partnerships with Africa, institutional strategies and long-term networks. From a science diplomacy perspective, stronger mutual knowledge, coordination and exchange of experience could unlock important synergies and enhance sustainable research and innovation impact. In an increasingly competitive national and international environment, connecting complementary expertise and existing networks becomes particularly important. This presentation will provide an insight into this emerging landscape and discuss its opportunities and gaps.
10:35 – 11:15	Panel: From Research to Relations – A Conversation on Science Diplomacy in Africa Ambassador Fouzia Abass, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Switzerland and Liechtenstein Ambassador Léo Trembley, Swiss Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of the Congo and the Gabonese Republic

Dr. Yaya Sangaré, Secretary General, Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI)

Prof. Hugues Abriel, Professor at the Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine (IBMM), University of Bern

Moderated by Douglas Haggstrom, Swiss Leading House Africa, University of Basel

Purpose:

The panel is designed to deepen participants' understanding of what science diplomacy actually is, grounded in the direct experience of those practicing it. It should build on the mapping to show the breadth of already existing actions. It surfaces concrete lessons learned from diplomats and researchers working across the Swiss and African relationship and examines what the shift from development cooperation to genuine partnership looks like when tested against real decisions and relationships.

Panel Abstract:

Science diplomacy happens where two different worlds meet, the world of diplomacy, built on relationships, timelines and national interest, and the world of research, built on evidence, method and international collaboration. Each can help the other, and each can just as easily misunderstand the other. Showcasing concrete examples from the Swiss African partnership, this panel brings together a Swiss ambassador, an African ambassador, a Swiss researcher and a researcher from Cote d'Ivoire. The panelists will explore the following questions: 1) How does science diplomacy actually look like in practice? 2) What has genuinely changed as Switzerland's relationship with Africa moves from development cooperation toward partnership? 3) Where do diplomats and scientists easily work together and where are there challenges? And what can Switzerland learn from how other partners and regions are competing for the same relationships, resources and ideas for its partnership with Africa?

Guiding questions

Given the time available, the moderator will draw on a selection of these rather than working through all four in sequence.

- What is one practical example of a genuine partnership you have been part of, and what is one habit or practice from the old partnership model you would like to see left behind?
- Science diplomacy can be described as two worlds meeting for mutual benefit. In your own work, how has diplomacy helped science, or science helped diplomacy, in a way that surprised you?
- Diplomats and researchers often speak different languages and measure success differently. Where have you seen that this gap causes the most friction or misunderstanding?
- Switzerland is not the only country building partnerships in Africa. What is something Switzerland could learn from another country or region to improve and what strengths should Switzerland build on?

About the Panelists:

- **Ambassador Fouzia Abass, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Switzerland and Liechtenstein**

Offers the perspective of an African diplomatic mission engaging directly with Switzerland's research, innovation and diplomatic institutions. She will bring a candid view of what partnership with Switzerland looks and feels like.

	Ambassador Léo Trembley, Ambassador of Switzerland to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of the Congo and the Gabonese Republic Brings the perspective of Swiss diplomatic representation in Africa, with direct experience navigating between Bern's strategic priorities and the realities of a specific posting. He will begin with a short input on the Swiss Centre for Research and Innovation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SCRID) and will speak to where science and diplomacy have intersected in practice, and what a genuine shift from development cooperation to partnership looks like from an embassy's vantage point. Dr. Yaya Sangaré, Secretary General of the Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (FONSTI) and Executive Secretary of the Programme d'Appui Stratégique à la Recherche Scientifique (PASRES) Has a leading role at two funding institutions co-built with Switzerland and partially modelled on the Swiss system. He will speak to what these instruments reveal about genuine partnership in practice, and what it takes to keep a system built with a foreign partner locally owned and led. Prof. Hugues Abriel, Professor at the Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine (IBMM), University of Bern A Swiss researcher with sustained experience of partnership-based work in Africa, he will speak to how diplomatic relationships have opened or closed doors for scientific collaboration, and what researchers most need from the diplomatic community to make partnerships durable.
11:15 – 11:40	Structured Networking Break <i>Summary:</i> The structured networking session creates new contact points across the participants working in science diplomacy — diplomats, researchers, institutions and innovators who might not otherwise meet — and gives participants space to share their own experience and journey into this work, and to hear how others found their way into it.
11:45 – 12:45	Breakout Sessions <i>Summary:</i> The breakout sessions give participants concrete, contrasting examples of science diplomacy in practice, drawn from universities, cantons, companies, civil society and bilateral or multilateral institutional platforms operating at different scales and stages of maturity. The smaller group format creates space for genuine discussion and debate that the plenary sessions cannot accommodate. Participants should leave with a deeper working knowledge of several real science diplomacy initiatives, and with practical inspiration for how they might support or advance science diplomacy in their own context going forward. Session 1 — Equitable Partnerships and Science Diplomacy in Africa <i>Host: Djouroukoro Diallo, Initiative Afrique, University of Bern</i> Auditorium S 003 <i>Session Abstract:</i> Since the last decades, claims for decoloniality and equity have shaped the discourse in academic and diplomatic relations between the Global North and the Global South—specifically, between Africa and Europe. Swiss institutions are no exception to this debate. Despite the contributions of institutions dedicated to this issue, such as the Swiss Alliance for Global Research Partnerships (GRP-Alliance), there is a pressing need to deepen this discussion and give it its

rightful place in the partnership between Switzerland and the African continent, especially in the context of science diplomacy. Drawing on concrete examples, this panel aims to establish the link between equitable partnership and science diplomacy in the relationship between Switzerland and Africa.

Guiding questions

- How does equitable partnership manifest itself in this context?
- What can we learn from the experiences presented in this session?
- How should Swiss science diplomacy practice equitable partnership with the African continent?
- Who are the key actors in this process?

- **Dr. Fabian Käser, GRP-Alliance (Guide for Global Research Partnerships)**

Abstract:

Switzerland has strong science diplomacy relations based on long-standing equitable collaborations with partners in South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Tanzania and Kenya, among others. Yet Swiss–African science diplomacy remains fragmented, underleveraged and lacks a coherent strategy. The presentation highlights the potential of equitable research partnerships as day-to-day science diplomacy collaborations. These long-standing collaborations build trust, connect institutions and demonstrate how equitable partnerships can advance shared scientific and diplomatic goals. Based on an evaluation of existing partnerships, the presentation also argues for a jointly developed Swiss-African science diplomacy strategy that is well aligned with African and Swiss priorities and embedded in Switzerland's Africa, Foreign Policy, and Education, Research and Innovation strategies.

Further information:

- Guide for Global Research Partnerships: <https://globalresearch.scnat.ch/en/grp-guide>
- Towards Strong Swiss–African Science Diplomacy: https://globalresearch.scnat.ch/en/publications/uuid/i/7c362e0f-676e-5430-86a9-722689146c1f-Towards_Strong_Swiss%E2%80%93African_Science_Diplomacy
- Swiss science diplomacy: <https://academic.oup.com/spp/article/52/2/298/7932446>

- **Prof. Thomas Breu, University of Bern, Centre for Development and Environment**

Abstract:

The Nile dispute between Ethiopia and Egypt, rooted in the exclusionary 1959 Nile Waters Agreement, illustrates both the promise and the limits of science diplomacy in transboundary water conflicts. The SDC-funded Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC), now a leading Ethiopian research institution associated to the University of Bern, builds long-term hydrological data and local capacity, and develops sustainable land-use approaches for reduced sedimentation and more stable flows. The premise: openly shared data can lower the temperature of disputes otherwise driven by asymmetric information and mistrust. Given the depth of the political rift, expectations must stay realistic — yet through active participation in technical and political committees, the initiative has quietly supported Switzerland's role in the dispute and contributed to productive exchanges with riparian authorities.

- **Dr. Yaya Sangaré, FONSI (Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique en Côte d'Ivoire)**

Abstract:

Since 1949, Switzerland and Côte d'Ivoire have forged a lasting scientific cooperation that has led to the creation of several institutions: CSRS in 1951, PASRES in 2007, and FONSTI in 2018. Inspired by the SNSF, but built according to local needs and context, FONSTI is

part of a science diplomacy with four faces: partnerships to promote science, equitable scientific cooperation, mobilizing science to facilitate the rapprochement between nations, and the anticipation of technological breakthroughs. Through international networks such as SGCI, GRC, Belmont Forum and co-financing of projects with countries from Global South and Global North, FONSTI and PASRES have transformed a link of assistance into an equitable partnership, the foundation of this science diplomacy. Science diplomacy encourages cooperation between States, Academia and funding bodies to produce knowledge and inform public policies for sustainable and inclusive development.

- **Dr. Sandra Gillner, SwissCore (Equitable partnership of Swiss Liaison House)**

Abstract:

This contribution will put Switzerland's scientific and diplomatic cooperation with Africa in the European context. It will first present the work of SwissCore, the Swiss Contact Office for Research, Innovation and Education in Brussels, explaining how SwissCore fits in the national science diplomacy nexus. It will then briefly present the main diplomatic tools of the EU to establish equitable research partnerships with Africa, before reflecting on their importance for Switzerland as a close partner of the EU. The presentation will end with open ended question for discussion within the breakout group: How can Switzerland balance engagement with Africa via bilateral and multilateral cooperation? How does close engagement with the European research agenda and rulebook influence Switzerland's ability to shape equitable relationships with Africa?

Session 2 — Alternative Partners for Science Diplomacy | *Host: Douglas Haggstrom, Innovation Office, University of Basel* | Room A 019

Session Abstract:

This session explores cantons, companies, civil society and African-led institutions as active partners in Swiss and African science diplomacy, alongside traditional government and academic channels.

- ***Yopougon Health Centre | New partners for a new model of collaboration***
Ambassador Dominique Favre, Embassy of Switzerland to Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea
 Switzerland and Côte d'Ivoire have a long history of collaboration through the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS). The Yopougon Health Centre, opened in 2024 as the partnership's latest addition, was supported in part by the Canton of Basel Stadt, reflecting the twin city relationship between Basel and Yopougon. The centre delivers healthcare but also functions as innovation infrastructure, and has since drawn in further partners including Novartis Global Health. Ambassador Favre will share his perspective on this partnership and how different actors contributed to its development and how it supports diplomacy.
- ***Novartis | Global health partnerships***
Matthew Harold, Head of External Affairs and Strategic Partnerships at Novartis
 Novartis's Africa organisation, headquartered in Nairobi, works across the continent to expand access to medicines in a region that carries a disproportionate share of the global disease burden yet under 1% of global health expenditure. The Novartis input will showcase insights around the Sickle Cell Disease programme, reflecting on why delivering global health at scale increasingly depends on multi-stakeholder partnerships that bridge science, industry and diplomacy
- ***Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) | Blended public-private financing for neglected diseases***

Emma Hanney, Head of Strategy Medicine for Malaria Venture

MMV is a Geneva-based product development partnership (PDP) that pools public and private funding to develop antimalarial medicines that would not otherwise attract commercial investment. This case study looks at what it takes to build and sustain an operating model that depends on genuine, ongoing cooperation between governments, industry, and research institutions, rather than any one of them acting alone. MMV's work in AI augmented drug discovery provides an example of intensive multi-sector collaboration, and evidence of how partnerships can allow scientific advancements in Africa to leapfrog the traditional maturity process.

Session 3 — Swiss and Multinational Platforms for Science Diplomacy | *Host: Niccolò Iorno, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA* | Room A 022

Session Abstract:

Switzerland has a long tradition of building institutional platforms for science and knowledge exchange with Africa, often through bilateral partnerships such as the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania (IHI) and the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques in Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS). This session explores how this tradition is evolving through a newer generation of Swiss-anchored, internationally oriented platforms, represented by SWISSCO, GESDA and ICAIN. While operating in different fields and with different constituencies, these initiatives share an ambition to create structures for sustained exchange, collaboration and collective action that extend beyond individual projects. Bringing them together provides an opportunity to compare different models of platform-building: how they emerge from a specific need or opportunity, how they bring diverse actors together, and how they develop the relationships, resources and institutional arrangements needed to generate lasting value. The session will also consider the opportunities and challenges of building such platforms in and with African partners.

Guiding questions

- What does it take to build a platform for academic science diplomacy at each stage, from concept to launch to established operation?
- What can Switzerland's experience across these three examples teach us about scaling engagement with Africa?

- **About GESDA:**

The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) is an independent Swiss foundation based in Geneva, established in 2019 by the Swiss Confederation, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and the City of Geneva. GESDA anticipates scientific and technological breakthroughs and translates them into concrete actions for the benefit of society, working at the intersection of science, diplomacy and societal impact. Its work on anticipatory leadership seeks to equip decision-makers with the knowledge, skills and mindsets to navigate emerging developments. This approach is being developed through capacity-building activities in Africa, including the Anticipatory Leadership Week in South Africa. GESDA also promotes inclusive access to emerging technologies through the Open Quantum Institute (OQI), which seeks to harness quantum computing for the Sustainable Development Goals and the common good.

- **About SWISSCO:**

The Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) is a Swiss-based multistakeholder initiative comprising key actors from the private sector, government, civil society, and academia. Through strengthened accountability, peer learning, public-private partnerships, and policy dialogue, SWISSCO seeks to enable innovation and systemic change in cocoa

origin countries. Joint research initiatives based on collaboration between consumer and producer countries, such as the Cocoa Household Income Study (CHIS) in Ghana, help create a common understanding of the key challenges in cocoa production. The sharing of this data paves the way for fact-based discussions on key strategies to close the living income gaps that a large majority of cocoa farming families still suffer from. This year, CHIS was carried out for the second time since 2024, and it has thus become a strategic vehicle to engage in and foster policy dialogue with Ghana, Switzerland's most important cocoa origin country.

- **About ICAIN:**

The International Computation and AI Network (ICAIN) is an international network anchored at ETH Zurich, established to rebalance the global AI landscape by enabling equitable access to AI technologies, computing resources and innovative research collaborations. ICAIN connects academic institutions, resource providers, implementers and donors to use AI for the common good. Its work in Africa includes improving weather prediction for small-scale farmers in Kenya and developing a smartphone-based spectrometer for early crop-disease detection. Through AI for All, ICAIN also works with Busitema University in Uganda to strengthen AI knowledge and skills across schools, universities and policymaking communities, supporting technologies that address African challenges and improve livelihoods.

Session 4 — From Science to Innovation Diplomacy | *Host: Sébastien Hug, Innovation Office, University of Bern* | Room A 024

Session Abstract:

While science diplomacy focuses on collaborating to jointly generate new knowledge, innovation diplomacy asks what happens next: how ideas, ventures and technologies move from concept to real-world impact, and how diplomatic relationships can support that journey. This session brings together voices from across the innovation value chain — entrepreneurship and ecosystem-building, university-based technology transfer, and diplomatic practice — to compare how Switzerland and Africa each build, fund and scale innovation, and where their approaches diverge or reinforce one another.

Guiding questions

- What do we mean by “innovation” across such different contexts, and how can Swiss and African innovation ecosystems better learn from and reinforce each other's strengths through diplomacy?
- How can diplomacy actively support innovation — and how, in turn, can innovation strengthen diplomatic relationships? What are the limits, risks and challenges of collaborations between such different types of organisations? What are successful models for collaboration and what conditions are required?
- Against the background of the various budget cuts across the development aid sector, does “Innovation Diplomacy” offer an alternative path?

- **Houda Ghozzi, Founder & CEO, Open Startup**

Dr. Houda Ghozzi is the Founder and CEO of Open Startup, which she launched in 2016 as a university entrepreneurship competition in Tunisia. She is a former business strategy professor with a doctorate from Université Paris Dauphine. Under her leadership, the organization has grown into a pan-African platform supporting entrepreneurs across the continent. As Open Startup marked its 10th anniversary this year, Ghozzi is steering its next

chapter toward deeper engagement with Africa's science and deep tech ecosystems, including a new fund to bridge the lab-to-market gap. She is based in Tunisia.

Open Startup

Open Startup is a pan-African non-profit dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs through investment readiness, venture creation, ecosystem building, and international connectivity. It has supported more than 3,000 founders and over 1,000 startups across more than 20 African countries, backed by a network of 500+ mentors and 300+ trained coaches. The organization maintains offices in Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal, and New York.

- **Nathalie Morandini Siegrist**, *Head of Sustainable Development, EssentialTech, EPFL*
Nathalie Morandini Siegrist leads the Sustainable Development Division at EPFL's EssentialTech Centre. She brings a background in humanitarian work, including with the International Organization for Migration in Geneva, with expertise in post-crisis recovery, gender-based violence, and forced migration. She joined EssentialTech in 2021 and has led the division since 2023. She is based in Lausanne, Switzerland.

EssentialTech, EPFL

EssentialTech is an EPFL research centre founded in 2012 on the conviction that science and technology can improve the lives of the most vulnerable. It harnesses science and technology to drive sustainable development, humanitarian action, and peace, aiming to reduce vulnerability and improve conditions for people and the planet. The Centre works closely with partners such as the ICRC and MSF, and has transferred several of its technologies to social enterprises for lasting, scalable impact.

- **Pascal Koenig**, *Co-Founder, Malaica*
Pascal Koenig is a Swiss serial entrepreneur and Co-Founder and Executive Chair of Malaica. He previously co-founded and led Ava Women as CEO, reaching 8-digit USD revenue. He earlier built Limmex AG, an emergency alert system for seniors, and a telemonitoring startup for open heart patients. He began his career at McKinsey and studied at the University of St. Gallen and Columbia Business School. He is based in Zurich, Switzerland.

Malaica

Malaica is a maternal health startup on a mission to make the pregnancy journey safe and convenient for millions, founded to tackle Kenya's high maternal mortality rates. A team of obstetricians, midwives, pediatricians, psychologists and other experts support pregnant women holistically throughout pregnancy. Malaica has reached around 500,000 women with free educational content and served more than 44,000 women through its full support programme, expanding across Kenya. The company is incorporated in Zurich, while its core team operates out of Nairobi.

- **Ambassador Pietro Mona**, *Ambassador to The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Cabo Verde, Mali and Mauritania*
Pietro Mona is a career Swiss diplomat serving as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of The Gambia, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Republic of Mali, and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, based in Dakar. He previously served as Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the African Union, IGAD, and UNECA, and Ambassador to Djibouti, based in Addis Ababa, and earlier held roles focused on migration and development at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Bern. He studied at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

12:50 – 13:00

Closing Remarks

Ambassador Philipp Stalder, Head of Sub-Saharan Africa and Francophonie Division AFD, State Secretariat STS, FDFA

	Prof. Nadia Mercader, Designated Vice-Rector Research and Innovation, Professor at the Institute of Anatomy, University of Bern <i>Moderated by Prof. Jürg Utzinger, Director of Swiss TPH</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Networking Lunch
14:00	End of Official Program

Afternoon — Academic Exchange Session

	Presentation of current Swiss–African research collaboration projects and roundtable <i>Moderated by Djouroukoro Diallo, Initiative Afrique, University of Bern, and Douglas Häggström, Swiss Leading House Africa, University of Basel</i> Following the strategic workshop on science diplomacy, bringing together Swiss and African diplomats, researchers, and institutional partners to strengthen cooperation in Swiss and African research and innovation, we invite you to a special session dedicated to the contribution of Swiss Academic institutions to this conversation. This session gives Swiss academic actors engaged in Africa the chance to see each other's work, deepen the conversation from the morning, and identify concrete ways to make Swiss-African partnerships more equitable and effective. Its Objectives are: 1. to strengthen the network of Swiss academic institutions engaged with Africa; 2. to discuss concretely what Swiss academic actors contribute to, and could improve in, Swiss-African science diplomacy; 3. to examine what equitable partnership concretely requires in this context. The session will be closed with a roundtable discussion on Science Diplomacy Africa-Swiss in Practice.
14:30 – 14:35	Welcome and Framing
14: 35 – 15:30	Lightning presentations of Swiss Academic Institutions related to Africa The following institutions are invited to make a 3-minute slot around three points: (1) please say in one sentence who you are and what is your footprint in Africa; (2) please give one concrete example, a flagship project or result; (3) please say what you are looking for, the kind of partner or connection that would help next. - <i>Initiative Afrique</i>, Universität Bern (Djouroukoro Diallo) - <i>Swiss Leading House Sub-Saharan Africa</i> (Douglas Häggström, Kobina Assan Ampah) - <i>The Swiss Society for African Studies (SSAS)</i> (Tobias Haller, Universität Bern) - <i>The Center for African Studies Basel</i>, Universität Basel (Elisio Macamo) - <i>Geneva-Africa Lab</i>, Université de Genève (Anne Mayor) - <i>Focus Africa</i>, Université de Lausanne (Christine Lequellec Cottier) - <i>EPFL - Excellence in Africa</i> (Jérôme Chenal) - <i>ETH for Development</i> (Sewoenam Chachu) - <i>The Swiss-African Cybersecurity Network</i>, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (Bettina Schneider) - <i>UNESCO Chair in Responsible Global Management</i>, Berner Fachhochschule (Pia Stalder) - <i>Swiss TPH</i> (Mirko Winkler) - <i>Swisspeace</i> (Laurent Goetschel)

	- <i>ETH Zurich</i> (Isabel Günther) - <i>Competence Center for African Research (CCAR)</i>, Universität St. Gallen (Matthieu Thierry Ngosso)
15:30 – 16:00	Roundtable <i>Moderated by Didier Péclard, University of Geneva</i> Panelists: - Jasmina Saric (Swiss TPH) - Christine Lequellec Cottier (Université de Lausanne) - Laurent Goetschel (Swisspeace, Universität Basel) - Thomas Breu (CDE, Universität Bern) Guiding questions • What is one concrete step Swiss academic institutions could take together, rather than alone, to make Swiss-African science diplomacy more effective? • Where does the gap between equitable partnership as a principle and as a practice show up most clearly in your own work? • What would make it easier for a Swiss institution to find the right African partner, and vice versa, without relying on personal connections and chance?
16:00	Wrap up, key takeaways and thanks (Hugues Abriel, Universität Bern)