

Statements of the SPS

The Swiss Physical Society Emphasizes the Value of Diversity in Physics in the U.S.

The Swiss Physical Society (SPS) expresses deep concern over recent policy changes in the United States that threaten Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) initiatives in physics and related fields. The executive order affecting federal research agencies, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), risks undermining the inclusive environment necessary for scientific progress.

The SPS would like to stress the importance of maintaining diversity actions: *“Scientific progress relies on diverse perspectives and equitable access to opportunities, regardless of gender, social, or ethnic background. Rolling back DEI initiatives not only harms individual careers but also weakens the innovation and progress that drive physics forward.”*

The SPS strongly supports measures that foster inclusivity, ensuring that physicists from all backgrounds can contribute to advancements in the field. The elimination of DEI programs risks narrowing research approaches, reducing access to education, funding, and leadership positions – particularly for women and underrepresented groups. This ultimately hinders breakthroughs and scientific progress on a global scale.

Switzerland has long recognized the importance of supporting underrepresented groups in physics through dedicated programs such as the ETH domain’s *“Fix the Leaky Pipeline”* program and the *“Gender Equality Grant”* and *“Flexibility Grant”* of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). These structured measures have a positive impact in ensuring that talented individuals, regardless of their background, have equal opportunities to contribute to scientific advancements.

The Swiss Physical Society urges policy makers, institutions, and funding agencies to uphold inclusive research environments and protect DEI initiatives that strengthen the scientific community. We stand in solidarity with colleagues worldwide advocating for equitable and diverse scientific communities.

Statement on Recent U.S. Executive Orders Undermining Climate Action and Sustainable Energy Transition

The Swiss Physical Society (SPS) strongly opposes the recent U.S. executive orders that weaken actions addressing the climate crisis. These decisions undermine decades of scientific research, hinder the energy transition, and threaten a sustainable future.

The SPS emphasizes that human influence on the climate system is scientifically proven, driving global temperature rise, intensifying extreme weather events, and endangering ecosystems and communities worldwide. A successful transition to sustainable energy, which is critical to mitigating the climate crisis, relies on robust scientific research in fields such as low carbon energy sources, battery storage, and advanced materials.

Rolling back emissions regulations, weakening clean energy initiatives, and removing environmental protections will accelerate these threats on a global scale. Furthermore,

cutting funding for basic sciences and climate-related research undermines progress, discourages innovation, and also weakens the foundation for evidence-based decisions for long-term sustainability.

The SPS has actively worked for fostering research and actions in academic institutions on a sustainable energy transition and community development for it. As a learned society committed to sustainable energy transition through fundamental research, we have launched a dedicated section for energy, sustainability and environment research. We stress with this statement our concern and the relevance that responsible authorities in Switzerland and in the world uphold science-based climate action and restate their commitment to combating the climate crisis for our future.