Library Diplomacy

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Why does library diplomacy matter?

- Position libraries in the global policy processes

- No library can stand and address the 21st-century challenges alone

- Advance our core library values

Mariano R (2022) Mapping and searching for a theory and concept of library diplomacy. *Information Research* 27(special issue). Available at: https://informationr.net/ir/27-SpIssue/CoLIS2022/colis2208.html

Mariano R, Vårheim A (2021) Libraries, museums and cultural centers in foreign policy and cultural diplomacy: A scoping review. *Journal of Documentation* 78(3): 651–672.

Library Diplomacy

Library diplomacy is an international strategy used by various actors and agencies to engage countries and institutions in libraries and library programs and services for international relationships and partnerships.

It seeks to strengthen relationships and advance international library work such as programs and policies

Mariano R (2022) Mapping and searching for a theory and concept of library diplomacy. *Information Research* 27(special issue). Available at: https://informationr.net/ir/27-SpIssue/CoLIS2022/colis2208.html

Libraries *in* Diplomacy

- Libraries and librarians participate and are involved in global policies and international processes. Librarians provide advice on the core values of librarianship to inform decision-making in foreign and global policies.

- Scenarios
  - ALA International Relations Committee
  - US State Department librarians
  - IFLA-UNESCO SDGs
  - Librarians involvement in open access advocacy, freedom of information initiatives.

Mariano R (2022) Mapping and searching for a theory and concept of library diplomacy. *Information Research* 27(special issue). Available at: https://informationr.net/ir/27-SpIssue/CoLIS2022/colis2208.html

Diplomacy *for* Libraries

- Libraries and other stakeholders cooperate and work together to advance libraries and librarianship

- Scenarios
  - ALA IRRT/IFLA Sister Libraries
  - Libraries of the ASEAN University network
  - 2022 Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online

Mariano R (2022) Mapping and searching for a theory and concept of library diplomacy. *Information Research* 27(special issue). Available at: https://informationr.net/ir/27-SpIssue/CoLIS2022/colis2208.html

Libraries *for* Diplomacy

- Libraries serve as instruments and platforms for international diplomacy to create people-to-people relationships and reinforce cultural understanding

- Scenarios
  - Foreign cultural centers
  - National libraries
  - University and Research Libraries

Mariano R (2022) Mapping and searching for a theory and concept of library diplomacy. *Information Research* 27(special issue). Available at: https://informationr.net/ir/27-SpIssue/CoLIS2022/colis2208.html

Emerging Themes

- **Actors**: Implict and explicit roles

- **Goals**: Sustainability, creativity and innovation, EDIA

- **Strategies**: Cultural humility and shared commitment

- **Instruments**: Digitalization

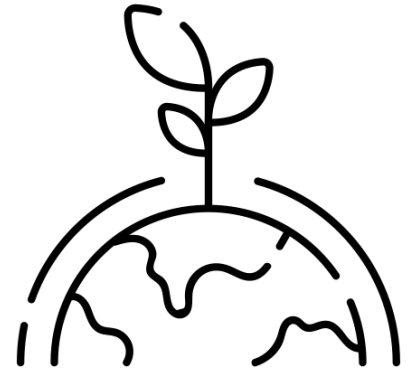Mariano, R. (2023). Understanding US library diplomacy practices in the 21st century. IFLA Journal, https://doi-org.mime.uit.no/10.1177/03400352231210543

Open Knowledge in Library Diplomacy

Emilia C. Bell

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Coordinator (Evidence Based Practice), UniSQ Library

Co-Founder & President, ANDPA

Soft power & cultural diplomacy

- Knowledge has a role in strengthening cultural understanding and regional relationships.

- GLAMR institutions as sites of cultural memory, national identity, international cooperation, and cultural exchange

- Research has predominantly focused on 'museum diplomacy,' and less so libraries.
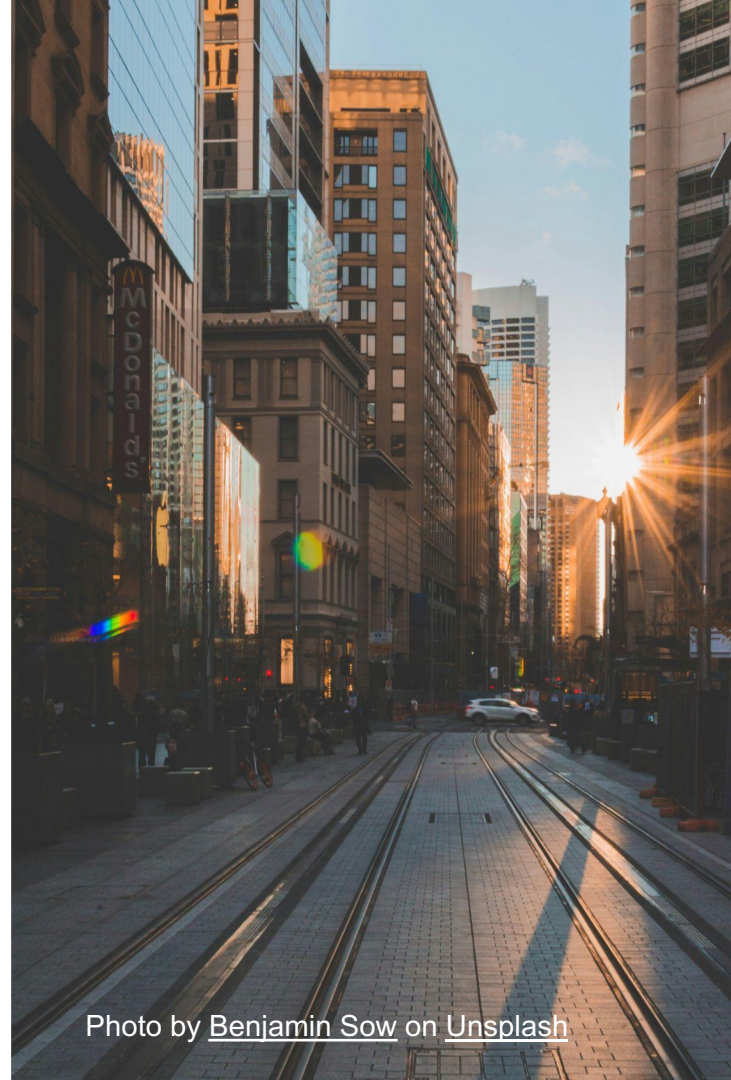
(Bell & Kennan, 2021; Bell, 2022).

Photo by Benjamin Sow on Unsplash

Knowledge diplomacy

"The process of strengthening relations between and among countries through international higher education, research and innovation"

Knight (2023)

"Knowledge diplomacy is based on co-creating and cooperation, collaboration and compromise, bringing together expertise, experience, knowledge, and insight for mutual benefit."

Skelton & Peake (2019)

Knowledge diplomacy

"The process of strengthening relations between and among countries through international higher education, research and innovation"

Knight (2023)

Key characteristics:

Cooperation **Reciprocity**

Collaboration **Mutual benefit**

Library diplomacy
Library as global actor with agency to influence international processes and policy and support cooperation and dialogue.

Open Knowledge Diplomacy

Open scholarship
Applying principles of openness to the scholarly and research environment.

Knowledge diplomacy
International knowledge production and collaboration intersecting with higher education and research.

miro

Library diplomacy
Library as global actor with agency to influence international processes and policy and support cooperation and dialogue.
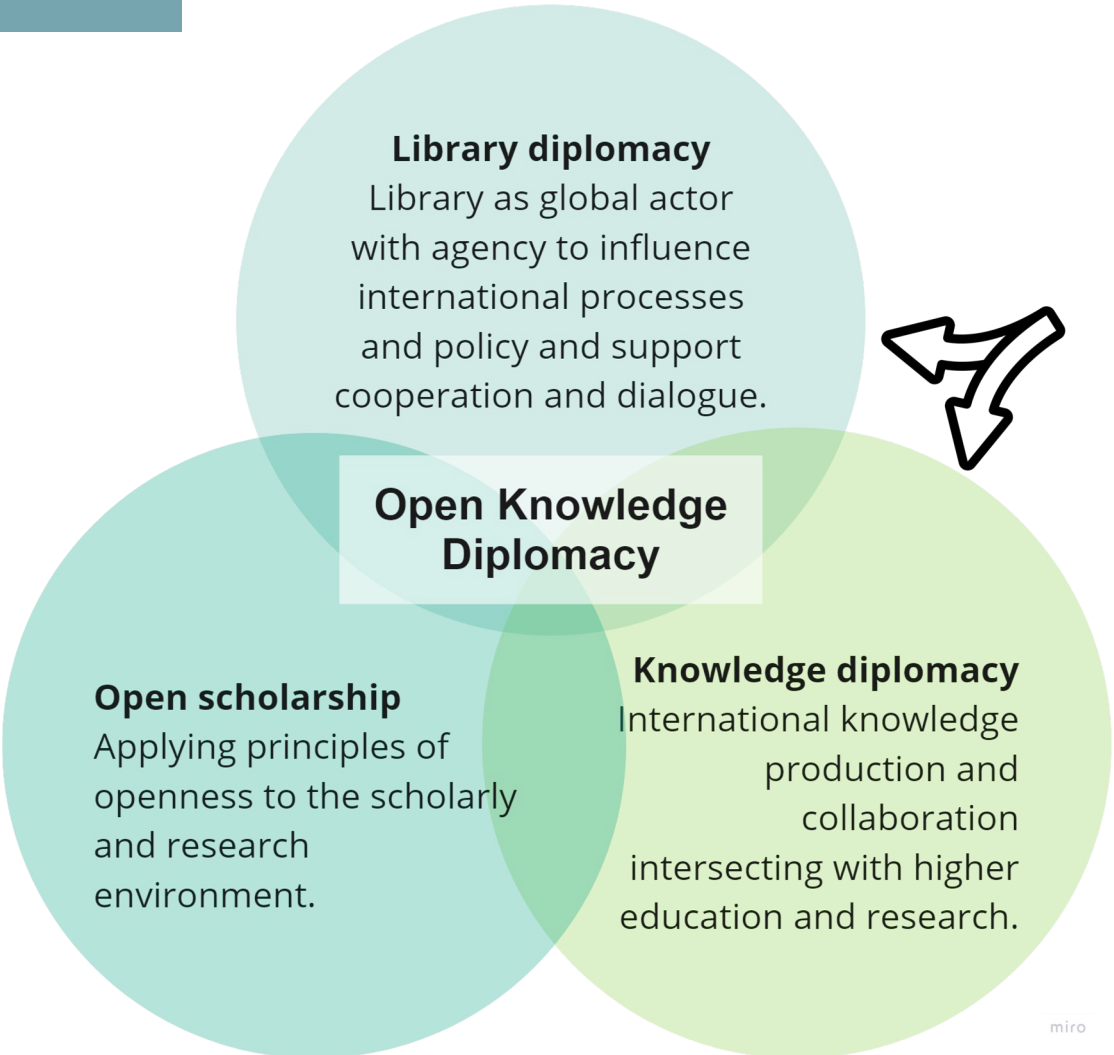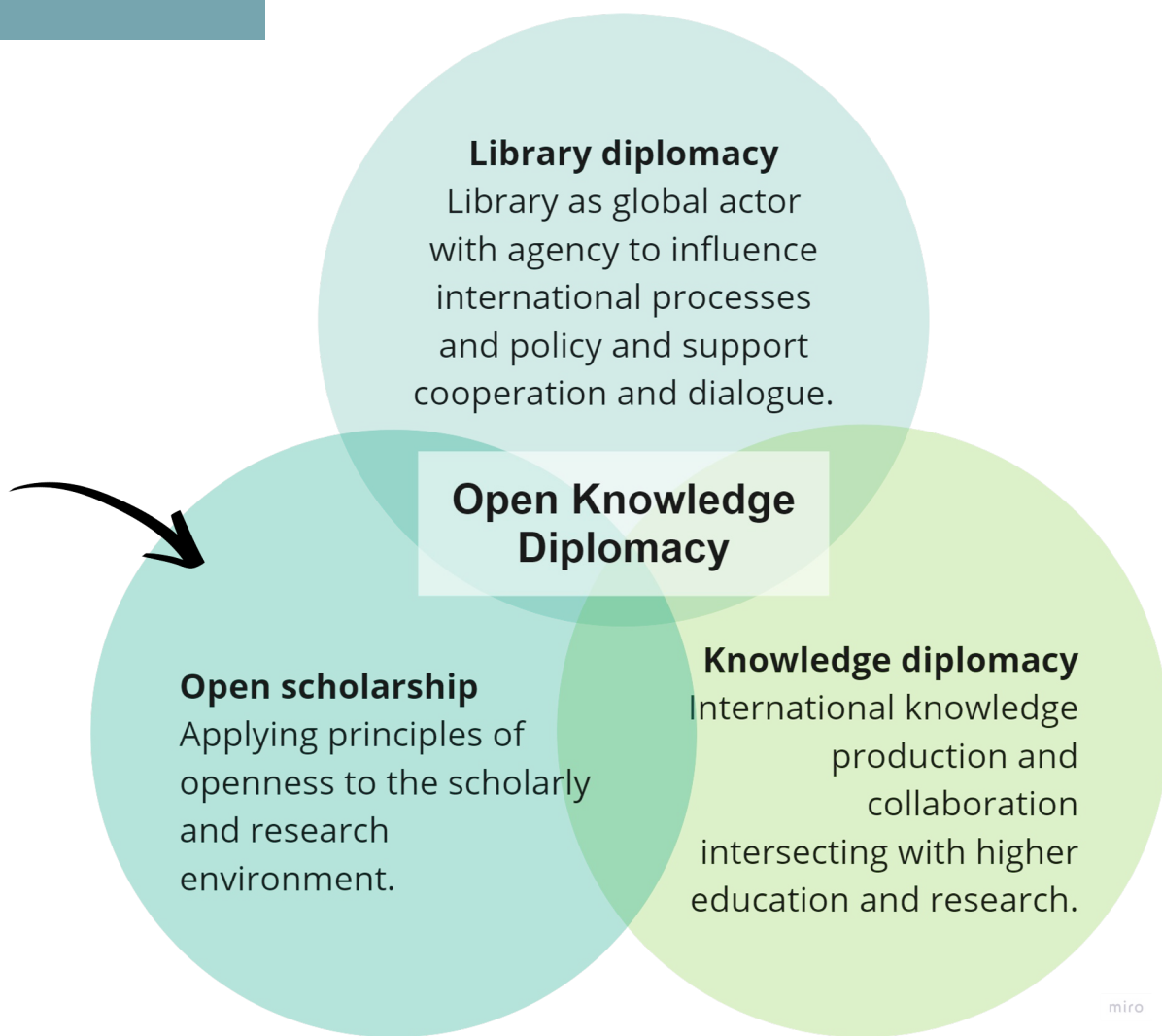
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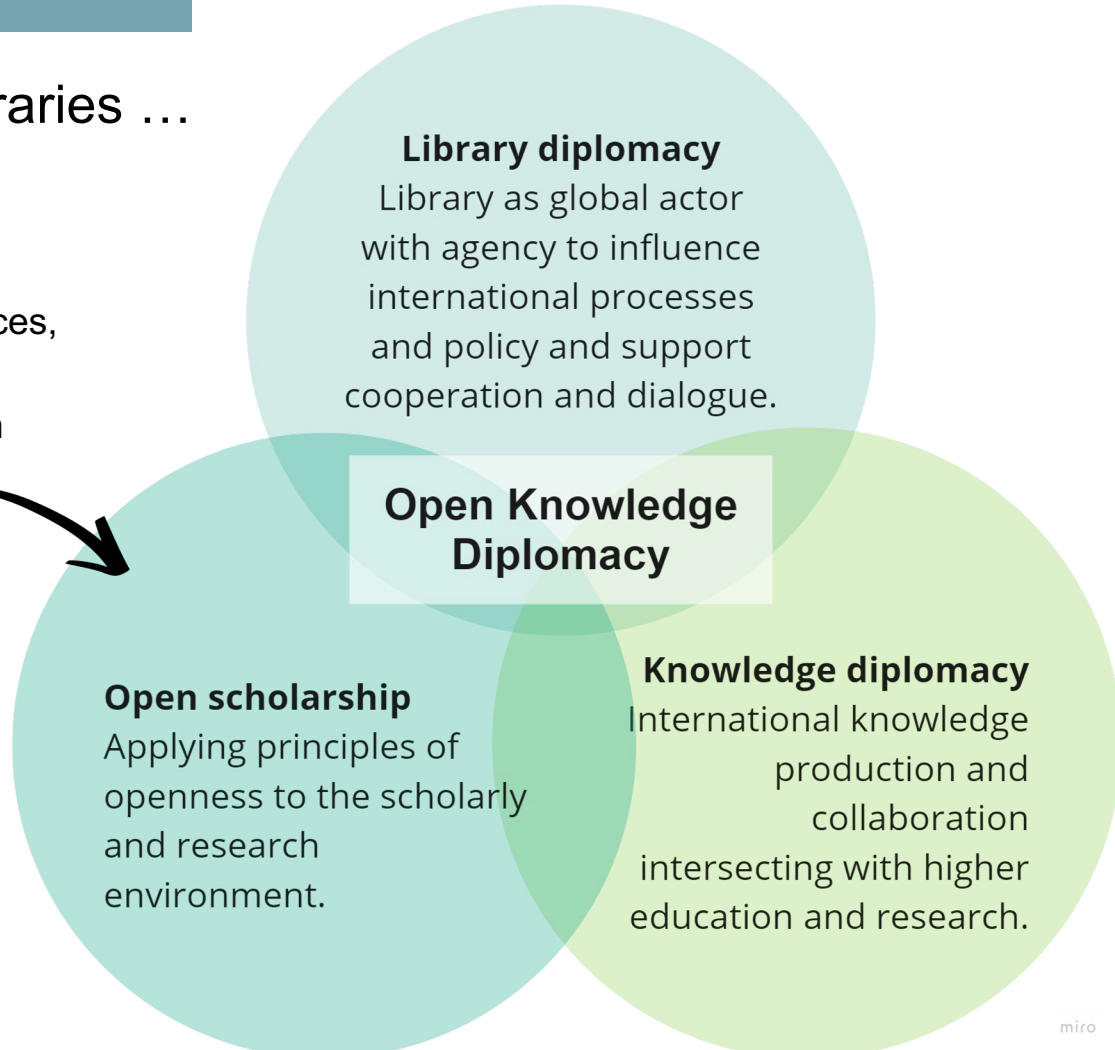
Knowledge diplomacy
International knowledge production and collaboration intersecting with higher education and research.

miro

University libraries …

Contributing services, infrastructure, and advocacy for open scholarship.

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University libraries …

Contributing services, infrastructure, and advocacy for open scholarship.

Contributing to knowledge access, translation, and exchange internationally.

Partners in knowledge brokering for diplomacy, bridging communities.

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Knowledge diplomacy
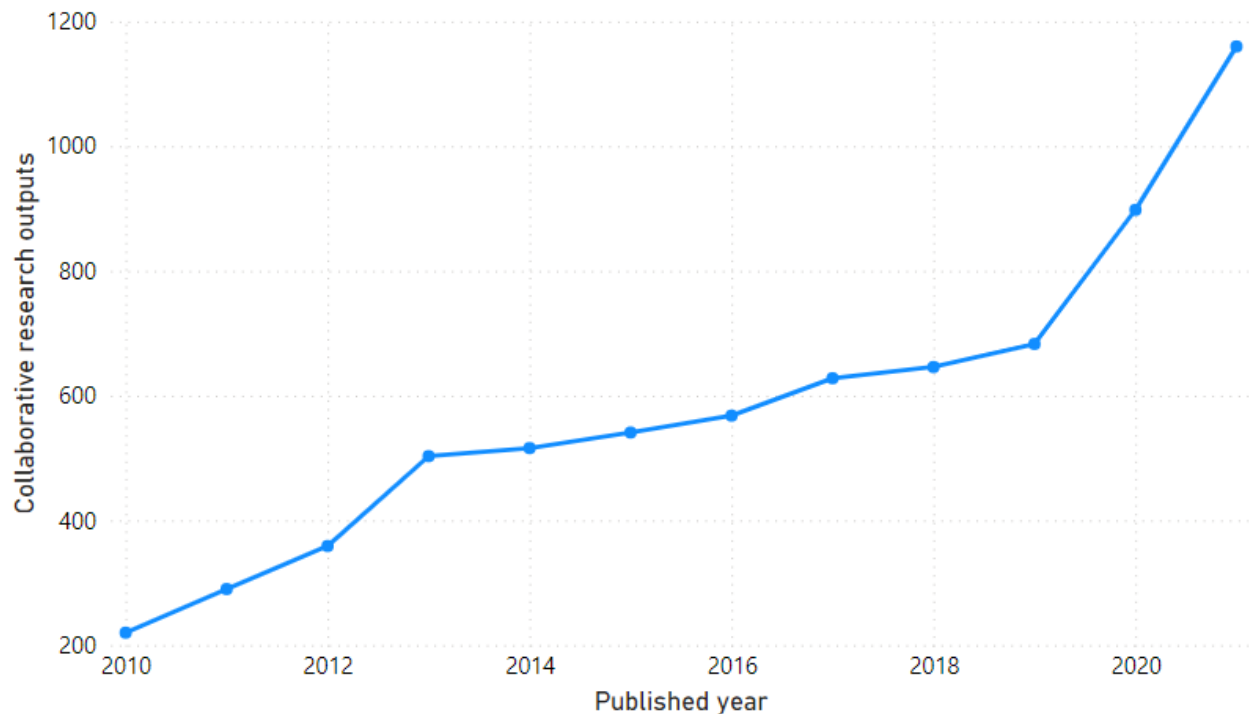International knowledge production and collaboration intersecting with higher education and research.

miro

Climate change

Rise in **Australian collaborations internationally** on publications associated with **climate change**.

1.6% of these collaborations were in the Melanesia sub-region.

Australia international collaborations on climate change research publications

(COKI Open Access Dataset, 2022)

Library diplomacy & Knowledge diplomacy

Global Partnership – Libraries

- Strengthening collaboration, cooperation, & knowledge sharing.

- Addressing inequalities, challenges, and sustainable development.

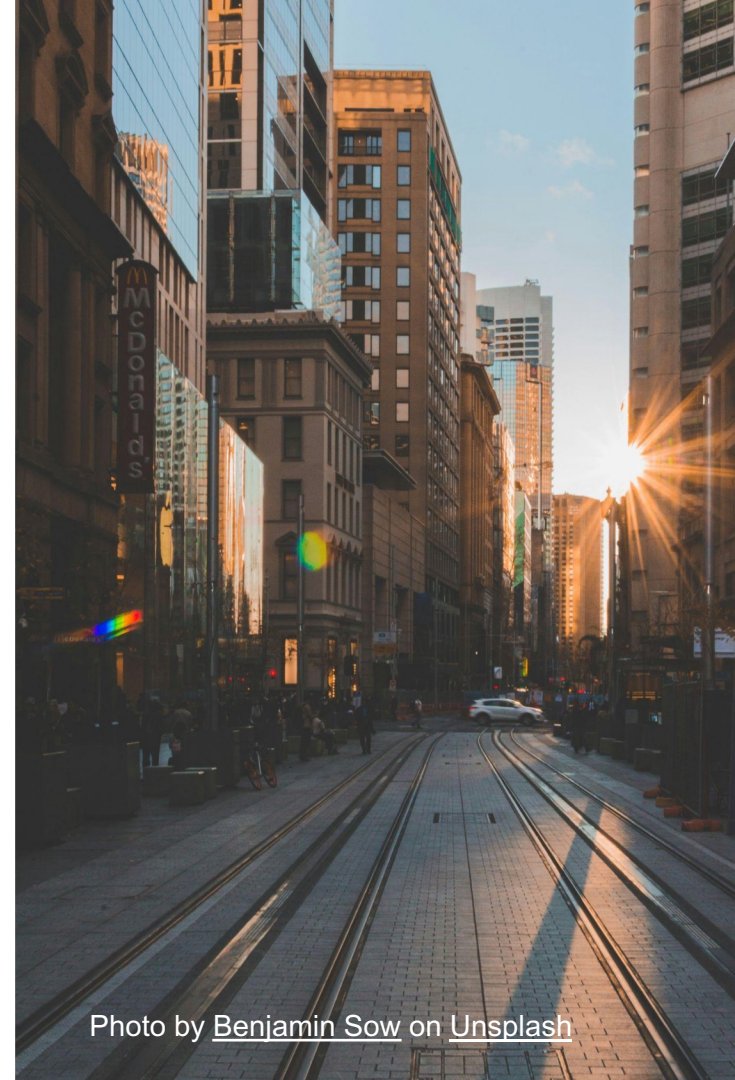- Contributing to global policy dialogue and governance.

Photo by Benjamin Sow on Unsplash

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