

## **Statement by EMBL Director General to COP26**

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) is Europe's only intergovernmental organisation for life science research, enabling scientific collaboration and endeavour across Europe and beyond. We are well placed to coordinate the synergies of science and policy.

During the past year, pioneering developments in life sciences, particularly in the field of molecular biology, have been implemented in the global fight against COVID-19 and have delivered solutions that have proven to be vital for human health.

As was the case with tackling Covid-19, life sciences research and innovation have the potential to generate novel, bio-based solutions that can also be vital tools in the fight against climate change and environmental damage. Scientific research is essential in developing new knowledge and innovations to mitigate the impact of human action on the natural world and, furthermore, give us evidence-based insight into the current condition of life on earth.

To be truly effective in finding solutions to the multi-layered problems brought about by climate change, scientists, industries and policymakers will be required to work differently, across disciplines, and to embrace new technologies.

Several decades of foundational research can be leveraged to create near-term solutions that can be scaled up whereas other research areas that are relatively new may provide solutions in the long-term. Timely investments in research to understand the molecular basis of damaging changes in the environment will be crucial to mitigate the risks of climate change.

I call upon the Conference of the Parties to commit to ensure molecular biology is enabled to achieve its full potential to address the climate crisis – we must not miss this crucial opportunity.