

Cap-Net UNDP
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Roundtable 2: Capacity Development

Thank you for the opportunity.

Colleagues, capacity development brings transformational change. It enables individuals and institutions to achieve their goals. As a key instrument to address the complexity of the world's water issues, and its ramifications across the 2030 Agenda, it needs to be innovative, systemic, and forward-looking. It requires local ownership for sustainability beyond any single initiative. We are taking a stand against single-issue projects and calling for shifting the systems that underpin development.

Previous approaches have not paid sufficient attention to education, training, or attracting and retaining the skilled workforce required to deliver water and sanitation services. Navigating water management requires an understanding of scientific and technical disciplines, well beyond water and sanitation; this includes governance, regulation, finance, IT, environment and ecosystem management, gender and youth inclusion, and stakeholder engagement.

First-hand experience has showed us that demand-driven capacity development brings real behavioral and systems change. Alternative approaches have proven financially and environmentally sound, yielding greater outreach, scalability, and impact. Across 60 countries, innovative trainings on our virtual campus led to the adoption of revolutionary international non-sewered sanitation standards. It overcame covid restrictions and provided a platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned; it facilitated negotiations for the adoption of these standards.

Colleagues, we must seize this unique opportunity to respond to specific country needs and support the people and organizations to achieve their aspirations. Together, we can provide the knowledge and confidence required to efficiently deliver water and sanitation services. We must promote South-South collaboration, peer-to-peer learning, and institution-building for solid and sustained progress towards achieving SDG 6. We look forward to working with each of you to deliver alternative capacity development that makes a lasting difference, make this a reality for SDG 6, and for the attainment of all SDGs that depend on it.

Thank you again.