



ASTM INTERNATIONAL
Helping our world work better

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ASTM International Statement on the United Nations 2023 Water Conference

Written Submission

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ASTM International, in the 125th year of fulfilling its mission of meeting global societal needs by improving health, safety and the overall quality of life through full consensus standards and related services, and a special consultative status NGO within the United Nations Economic and Social Council, appreciates this opportunity to reaffirm its support to SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

ASTM International has and will continue to partner with developing nations in their efforts to attain the UN SDGs. This is accomplished through ASTM International's Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with 123 partners, including 93 nations that are members of the G77+China.

Since 2001 our MOU program has provided free access to the full collection of 13,000 voluntary consensus standards that serve 90 industry sectors, including multiple aspects of water. Routinely, ASTM provides extensive capacity building to its MoU partners and other organizations in transitioning economies to support the use of ASTM's science-based standards. These consensus standards provide practical, sustainable solutions that result from our open, transparent development process. The ASTM consensus process engages more than 30,000 volunteer science and business professionals from 150 nations.

Within ASTM, Committee D19 on Water focuses its scope of work on various aspects of water. More than 415 members from 40 nations have developed over 330 standards that assist with providing a clean, healthy water supply for all. Committee D19 standards address sampling and analysis of the characteristics of water (physical, chemical, biochemical, microbiological, radiochemical), the performance of materials used to modify the characteristics of water, and indigenous and aquatic communities in water. Other technical committees within ASTM develop a robust collection of standards that address environmental preservation, stewardship, and security of water sources, extraction, transportation and infrastructure for water, water recapture, efficiency, reuse, recycling and sustainability of water, and consumer and industry usage of water. Together, these standards provide an economical, up-to-date, readily available toolbox for national standards bodies in transitioning economies to facilitate the provision of clean water and the necessary infrastructure to support its delivery. According to the annual reports received from our MOU partners, ASTM water and water -related standards are used daily, globally, to secure and provide this critical resource.

ASTM International's partnership with national and regional standardization bodies in transitioning economies extends beyond no-cost membership in any ASTM technical committees of interest and access to the up-to-date consensus solutions based on contemporary science and practice. An extensive resource, in the form of no-cost capacity building, is provided to ASTM's MOU partners and their stakeholders. These training programs are presented by technical experts who participate in the relevant ASTM technical committees and possess knowledge of the fundamental and most recent content of the subject standards, as well as the application of the standards.

ASTM International has collaborated with United Nations agencies and other non-governmental organizations to support and expand the global availability of clean water. Examples of existing partnerships include collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

Having conducted other programs with the World Health Organization and UN Environment Program, it is reasonable to anticipate the conduct of water-related programs with the latter.

Recognizing water as an essential resource that impacts the quality of life for people around the world and supports food production, health and hygiene, manufacturing and energy development, ASTM will continue to support the availability and sustainability of clean, safe water as well as water infrastructure.

We stand ready to assist the United Nations and its agencies and offices to realize the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Thank you for this opportunity to share information about ASTM's support of SDG 6. Please contact me with any questions or recommendations at tcendrowska@astm.org or +610 203 2630.