

Statement ID 5 -IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Stakeholder Intervention –Interactive Dialogue 5 - Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan – 24 March, 10AM – 1PM, Conference Room 4.– IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Honored delegates,

To fix the world’s water crisis, you need people and institutions who have the capacity to do so. This is why the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education calls on all countries to prioritize capacity development in all water and sanitation-related efforts. For any investment in water infrastructure to have a lasting impact, capacity development must be part of the package.

Too often, water investments devote little or no resources to capacity. They focus on immediate return-on-investment. Developing capacity falls to the wayside as it appears as a cost in the short term. But in the long term, investing in capacity development is what makes water investments sustainable.

At IHE Delft, we have, together with partners, committed to do doing our part in helping people, institutions and countries to develop the capacity they need to tackle the problems they face - (but often did not cause, as the effects of climate change hits hardest among those who contributed least to it). As part of the Water Action Agenda, we have committed to strengthening regional training centres and networks of training centres, particularly in the Global South. Such cooperation will foster quicker progress in the areas where it’s most needed.

But we and all other excellent stakeholders here at the conference cannot do this alone: we need government support and resources. Therefore, we urge all decision-makers at this Conference to devote more resources and attention to capacity development. If you want your efforts to be sustainable, there is no other way. The world needs capacity to tackle the water crisis.

Thank you.