WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Date: 23 March 2023

Subject: Written Statements to the UN 2023 Water Conference – School of Engineering, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

Dear Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

Capacity building is a crucial component in ensuring the success of water-related sustainable development goals and the water action agenda. The water action agenda outlines a comprehensive plan for addressing the global water crisis, including improving water access, increasing water efficiency, and promoting sustainable water management practices. To achieve these ambitious goals, it is essential to invest in capacity development initiatives that empower individuals and communities with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to effectively implement these strategies. This can include training in areas such as water conservation, water quality monitoring, and infrastructure management, as well as building the institutional and regulatory frameworks needed to support sustainable water development.

Collaboration and sharing of best practices are important for effective capacity development efforts. By working together and sharing knowledge, experiences, and resources, we can leverage the strengths and expertise of various stakeholders to build the capacity of individuals and communities more efficiently and effectively. This collaborative approach can include partnerships between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and other stakeholders to identify common goals and develop targeted capacity building programs. Additionally, sharing best practices and lessons learned can help to promote continuous improvement, innovation, and sustainability in capacity development efforts.

Interdisciplinary approaches to water education are critical to address the complex challenges of water management and ensure sustainable development. An interdisciplinary approach to water education involves the integration of knowledge and perspectives from multiple disciplines, such as environmental science, engineering, social sciences, economics, and policy. By bringing together different disciplines, students and professionals can gain a holistic understanding of water-related issues and develop innovative solutions that are grounded in science, technology, and social awareness. Water education that incorporates interdisciplinary perspectives can equip learners with the skills and knowledge necessary to tackle the pressing water challenges facing our world. For instance, an interdisciplinary approach can help address the complex interplay between water availability, quality, and access, as well as the socio-economic and cultural factors that influence water use and management. By recognizing these linkages, learners can develop innovative solutions that promote sustainable development and help address multiple challenges simultaneously.

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The School of Engineering, University of Warwick is a unified Engineering school with strong teaching and research across various themes. Our Water and Environmental Engineering subgroup promotes interdisciplinarity and sustainability within water education.

Some of our current contributions are:

1. We are sharing best practices about embedding interdisciplinarity into water education for sustainable education. The paper can be accessed Making a Case for an Interdisciplinary Approach to Water Education Towards Sustainable Development (iahr.org).
2. Embedding sustainability in water and environmental management and encouraging creativity and freedom of expression from student outputs. Examples of such are (a) Eco2- A digital Magazine on Artistic Activism. (b) Building an Interactive website on WASH in Schools and Gender Parity, website link.
3. Developing capacity for the Humanitarian Sector through the Humanitarian Engineering MSc program. https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/iatl/study/humanitarianengineering/
4. Research within the team covers water and wastewater treatment technologies, microplastics in water, urban drainage systems, coastal environment and the interactions between water and public health. https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/eng/research/grouplist/water/

As a school we are committed to championing an interdisciplinary approach to water education and research within our university, in addition to collaborating with other stakeholders in and outside the academic community. Ultimately, capacity development, collaboration and interdisciplinarity are essential to realizing the full potential of the water action agenda, ensuring the availability and equitable distribution of safe and sustainable water resources for all.

Prepared by
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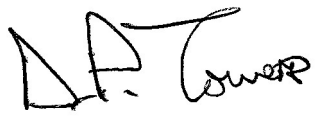
For School of Engineering



Yours faithfully
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