



**Summary from Sustainable Development Goals Discussion**  
**Monday, 10 September 2018**  
**3:45 pm – 5:45 pm**

**Discussion Participants:**

David Thomlinson, United Kingdom – Moderator  
Al Romig, United States  
Shane McHugh, United Kingdom  
Lucio Caceres, Uruguay  
Lucas Noldus, Netherlands  
Frank Behrendt, Germany  
Donggun Park, South Korea  
Matt Wenham, Australia  
Kenji Oeda, Japan

Tuula Teeri, Sweden  
A. Denlye, Nigeria  
Trueman Goba, South Africa  
Bob Pullen, South Africa  
Kyung Ho Shin, South Korea  
Pascal Viginier, France  
Osvaldo Postiglioni, Argentina  
Axel Meisen, Canada  
Istvan KRALIK, Hungary

**Advance Materials Provided (posted on CAETS website):**

- Netherlands
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- United States

**Framing Questions regarding Engineering and the Sustainable Development Goals:**

- Does your academy have efforts underway relating to the sustainable development goals? If so:
  - What is your focus?
  - Are you working in collaboration with other organizations?
- Does your country have a coordinated effort to contribute to achievement of the SDGs?
- How would you prioritize the SDGs in terms of the potential contributions from engineering and the technological sciences?
- Recent CAETS technical programs have focused on topics directly related to the SDGs, and the broad theme “Engineering a Better World” is well-aligned with the aims of the SDGs.
  - Should we develop a communications program to call attention to the role of engineering in achieving the SDGs?
  - Should we develop partnerships with other organizations working in this space? (e.g. World Federation of Engineering Organizations, InterAcademy Partnership, etc)
  - What are the next steps?



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## **GENERAL BACKGROUND MATERIALS**

**Reference:** <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

### **Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Merit-Based Academies**

InterAcademy Partnership (2017) – Free PDF: [http://www.interacademies.org/37864/IAP\\_SDG\\_Guide](http://www.interacademies.org/37864/IAP_SDG_Guide)

**InterAcademy Partnership: Conference and General Assembly** in April 2019, hosted by Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST).

<http://www.interacademies.org/46970/-2019-IAP-Conference-and-General-Assembly#tabs>

The Opening Ceremony will take place on Tuesday 9 April followed by the two-day conference on Science and the Sustainable Development Goals: The role of academies ending on Wednesday 10 April 2019.

The conference will explore how science is required to underpin and advance progress towards achieving the 17 goals of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and in particular, what role academies and – and should – play towards achieving these goals.

Among the specific sessions identified by the conference Scientific Committee, there will be discussions on the role of academies in the 21st Century and how academies have been, and should continue to evolve, to respond to today's challenges. There will also be more specific sessions on air pollution and health, artificial intelligence and big data, food and nutrition security and agriculture.



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**Key Discussion Points**

General Themes

- International development is not the main topic; SDGs are broadly applicable
  - Some countries are using SDGs to drive international aid/development activities
  - But in some countries the broad theme of sustainability is used to drive national initiatives (e.g. energy) without explicit reference to the SDGs
- Engineering has a pivotal role in achieving and delivering solutions for the SDGs – may be obvious but not that well known
- All CAETS academies are involved either explicitly or implicitly
  - We each work in countries where these issues are discussed
    - Lots of action at the local level
  - Realistic and achievable targets are needed; there is more that we could do
    - But we don't want to be writing a report
    - We do want to call attention to specific contributions that engineers are making to address the SDGs

What could CAETS do to facilitate and increase the impact of individual academy efforts?

- More effective communications are needed
  - “Sustainable” has a different meaning for different audiences (e.g. industry)
- CAETS could share stories via the website
  - Create an engineering storyline around a Sustainable Development Goal
    - e.g. Water – touches lots of countries in different ways; it's not one solution for the world
    - Leverage videos and cameos from individual academy websites
    - Set up a library on YouTube
  - Part of the audience is the UN system; there is a lot of activity already underway
    - SDG charter groups in all countries are doing a good job; as long as we work cooperatively, we will make progress
    - WFEO has established a focus on “Engineering and the SDGs” – should we collaborate with them or other related efforts?
- New way of communicating could be a global engineering alert on specific issues (if we know why something occurred and have access to reliable information)
  - Collective voice may have greater impact