



Royal Academy
of Engineering

CAETS Working Group: Engineering for SDGs

15 September 2021

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Item 1

Welcome

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Item 2

Presentations from member academies

Presentations at today's meeting

1. Prof. Frank Behrendt – German Academy of Science and Engineering
2. Prof. Taikan Oki – Engineering Academy of Japan
3. Eng. César Arias – National Academy of Engineering of Argentina



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Item 3

CAETS statement led by Working Group

Proposal & process

- Opportunity for the Working Group to draft a CAETS position paper (or statement) promoting the role of engineering in achieving the SDGs
- Proposed to be published around the dates of COP26
- Template is provided by CAETS (next slide) – as a guide
- Draft to be reviewed and signed off by CAETS Communications Committee
- Timeline: full first draft required by **w/c 4 October 2021**

[TITLE]

Problem statement

[A brief statement of the problem being addressed]

Key recommendations

[These must be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound]

Summary

[Can include a brief explanation/summary of how specific recommendations were reached]

References

[Include any reference material if required]

To be discussed

- What do we want to achieve by publishing a statement?
- Who is our audience?
- What should our core messages be?
- How could the statement be of benefit to individual CAETS academies?
- When should the statement be published?

What do we want to achieve?

Suggestions...

- Be the voice of the global engineering profession on sustainability issues
- Communicate why engineering is so crucial to achieving the SDGs
- Raise the profile of CAETS and of individual member academies
- Convince governments and policymakers that engineering thinking can help achieve their sustainability goals (for example, goals agreed at COP26)
- Other?
- To be discussed...

Who is our audience?

- Governments, policymakers?
- The public?
- Other professions?
- Other?
- To be discussed...

What should our core messages be?

Suggestions – to be discussed and refined:

- Achieving global sustainability in line with all 17 UN SDGs is a complex, large-scale challenge requiring urgent and coordinated action across all major economic sectors and policy domains.
- The race to achieve “net zero” emissions and avoid 1.5°C global warming is an example of such a challenge – and one that requires challenging policy decisions to be made urgently, and existing technologies to be deployed rapidly.
- Engineers are very well placed to support such a transition – not only for the technical innovation that comes from the sector but for their ability to apply a rigorous “whole systems” approach.
- An engineering systems approach is a highly effective way to co-ordinate the national net zero transition while also addressing wider sustainability issues including adaptation, resilience, biodiversity and economic prosperity.
- CAETS – supported by its member academies – is a community of independent, highly proficient engineers and technologists that stands ready to support public bodies and authorities tasked with ensuring global sustainability.
- Others? To be discussed...

How could the statement be of benefit to member academies?

- Views welcome from the group
- To be discussed...

When should we seek to publish the statement?

- Before COP26?
- During COP26?
- After COP26?
- To be discussed...

To be discussed

- What do we want to achieve by publishing a statement?
- Who is our audience?
- What should our core messages be?
- How could the statement be of benefit to individual CAETS academies?
- When should the statement be published?



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Item 4

Additional outputs based on survey

Proposal

- Working Group to develop a knowledge-based output based on findings from the survey conducted in June 2021
- Aim is to build capacity and raise awareness of successful mechanisms for academy engagement with political bodies on sustainability issues – helping those academies that wish to increase their influence
- Primarily for CAETS community – but could also provide useful examples that can be linked to the statement

Survey findings to be utilised

- Challenges and risks experienced by academies when seeking to communicate engineering advice and influence political bodies
- Tips and tactics for overcoming those challenges and principles that enable successful communication and/or influencing
- Examples of successful models of interaction between academies and political bodies on sustainability issues (could include some of those presented during this year's Working Group meetings)
- Data on how academies engage with sustainability issues – for example which topics/issues they are focusing on, specific aims and objectives, and how they go about communicating with political actors
- We could also release the anonymised survey report to the CAETS community