

## CAETS Working Group: Engineering for SDGs

Wednesday 25th May 2022 | 12.00pm-2.00pm BST (GMT+1)

Attendees: Cesar Arias (National Academy of Engineering Argentina), John McGagh (Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering), Robert Crawhall (Canada Academy of Engineering) David Butler (National Academy of Engineering USA), Johan Kuylenstierna (Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, IVA), Pradeep Chaturvedi (Indian National Academy of Engineering), Wolf Gehrisch (National Academy of Technologies of France), Martin Bech (ATV – the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences), Bob Pullen (South African Academy of Engineering), Kejun Jiang (Chinese Academy of Engineering), Frank Behrendt (acatech – National Academy of Science and Engineering), Taikan Oki (Engineering Academy of Japan), Nasim A. Khan (Pakistan Academy of Engineering), David Thomlinson, Ben McAlinden, Alaka Bhatt , (Royal Academy of Engineering).

### 1. Chair's welcome

- David Thomlinson (DT) welcomed all members.
- DT reported that he had agreed to continue in his role as chair of the Working Group.
- DT confirmed that IVA had agreed to take on the role of vice chair, and they were in the process of confirming a nominee.

### 2. Selected presentations from member academies (12:05 -12:45 BST)

Please see attached slides for reference

#### **Speakers:**

- **Mr Martin Bech – Danish Academy of Technical Science (ATV)** *"Sustainability work of the ATV"*
- **Ms Huang Lin & Mr. Zhao Chunjiang – Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE)** *"Actions Taken by CAE for SDGs and Smart Agriculture Development Strategy"*

### 3. Reflection on CAETS COP26 statement

Members shared reflections on the [post-COP26 statement](#) that CAETS published in 2021, discussing two key areas: the drafting process and the impact of the statement.

#### *Reflections on the drafting process:*

- Johan Kuylenstierna (IVA) commended the statement process and noted that it had given this working group a clear purpose and goal to work towards. Johan was also encouraged that CAETS as a community was engaging with major global policy processes like COP26 and was pleased with the end product and the solution-focused nature of the statement, which represented engineering's "USP".

- Kejun Jiang (CAE) agreed that the statement had been useful to highlight contributions and outcomes of engineering in relation to sustainability goals.
- John McGagh (ATSE) agreed that the process had delivered an excellent end product and had achieved a milestone based on the exchanges held between academies.

*Reflections on the impact of the statement:*

- Johan Kuylenstierna (IVA) and John McGagh (ATSE) both noted that it was difficult to gauge true impact, noting the busy period around COP26, and that it may be too early to tell.
- John McGagh (ATSE) noted that the statement had given academies a piece of collateral to use within their own initiatives and highlighted that within ATSE the context of the statement had flowed through various forums, and some of its messages had become embedded into the outwards facing work of the ATSE minerals forum.
- Pradeep Chaturvedi (INAE) noted that the statement had received high interest from their membership.
- Robert Crawhall (CAE) highlighted the value of promoting the engineering “voice of reason” as a useful addition to scientific and economic discourse.
- David Thomlinson (RAEng) noted that the statement publication represented an important step for CAETS and showed that CAETS had a unique opportunity to represent national academies across many countries.

*Next steps and ideas for future statements:*

- It would be useful to have case studies included in future statements.
- There is clear value in highlighting what is involved to achieve SDGs.
- It is key that we step up dissemination plans to heighten impact.
- David Thomlinson (RAEng) suggested that the group could look to draft two statements per year – for this year, another one on climate change and one on another SDG area.

#### 4. Potential themes for 2022

Members voted on additional focus areas for the upcoming year selecting, and SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities in addition to SDG 13 alongside SDG 2 Climate Action. Full results of the vote can be seen below.

SDG Area	Number of Votes
SDG 2 Zero Hunger	5
SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	2
SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	10
SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	11
SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production	7
SDG 14&15 Life Below Water and Life on Land	0

Key points raised:

- Johan highlighted that the group should not overlook the systems approach when selecting a deep dive SDG focus area. The group possessed strong systems competence which remained the clear value the group can add.
- It was noted that if we do select specific SDG areas, we could frame messaging around “systems thinking” as a key takeaway.
- Nasim A. Khan (PAE) highlighted that Pakistan and other countries not represented in this group have key challenges around water, food, and hygiene, and suggested that SDG 6 should remain under consideration for a “deep-dive” focus.

#### 5. AOB and next meetings

- RAEng to highlight to NATF that the next meeting on 26 September clashes with the CAETS Energy Committee – both scheduled as in-person meetings at the CAETS conference
- John McGagh (ATSE) highlighted that the ATSE working party was considering if SDG obligations should be incorporated into codes of conduct and the professional registration system. Working group members are invited to input into this if they wish – further information is attached.
- Taikan Oki (EAJ) suggested the group should refer to the [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) as a reference for expressing aspirations in a cross-cutting way.