



## ATSE (Australia) - Information CATES Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Working Party

#### Request for Input

This communication is provided to the CAETS Working Group: Engineering for SDGs as background meeting for consideration and input from CATES WP Members.

Post COP26, and the supporting CATES climate position statement, ATSE has tasked a working party to consider how the obligations of the UNSDG's might apply to the Engineering and Technological Sciences professions.

To this end we wish to assess the advantage/disadvantage of the following position statement,

*..... "Professionally Qualified Engineers and Technological Scientists should be bound by a code of conduct reflecting an obligation to act in accordance with the principles of sustainability in alignment with the UNSDG."*

A working party of ATSE Assembly has been formed to review the current positions of similar Learned Academies and Institutions and relevant Regulatory Bodies around their member's compliance to the UNSDG.

The working party will report back in October 2022 with recommendations on ATSE's potential internal and external position.

We respectfully request CATES Working Party Members considered opinion as input into our review process.

#### Background (Abstract from ATSE Proposal Document)

Royal Charter Institutions (eg. IET, IChemE, Engineers Australia) are professional standards setting and registration authorities. These bodies have the authority to assess a candidate's suitability for being awarded Chartered status. If a professional wishes to practice they must both be Registered and Chartered (Europe/Australia/USA etc). In Australia for Professional Engineers, registration status is state based, and chartered status is national through Engineers Australia.

Several Royal Charter Institutions are seeking to amend their regulations to oblige their Professionals to adhere to a Code of Conduct referencing the principles set out in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

For example, below is one such action from a Royal Chartered Institution that has over 40,000 engineering professionals including 4,000 in Australia:

*.... “Update our Code of Conduct to include an obligation on all professional members to act in accordance with the principles of sustainability including the UN SDGs, prevent avoidable adverse impact on the environment and society, act to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, and protect, and where possible improve, the quality of built and natural environments”.*

This new requirement would enshrine obligations with respect to the discharge of professional duties, under a code of conduct, to the benefit of both climate and wider society using the UNSDG as a framework.

Whilst ATSE is not a Royal Chartered Institution, and ATSE Fellows are not required to be registered/chartered, we believe ATSE, as a learned academy, consider developing a policy statement on UNSDG, for example ..

*..... “Professionally Qualified Engineers and Technological Scientists should be bound by a code of conduct reflecting an obligation to act in accordance with the principles of sustainability in alignment with the UNSDG.”*